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THE
HERMIT
OF
CAUCASUS.

THE
HERMIT
OF
CAUCASUS,
AN
ORIENTAL ROMANCE.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

BY JOSEPH MOSER,
AUTHOR OF TURKISH TALES, &c. &c.

“ Oh ! I have suffer'd,
With those that I saw suffer :
A brave vessel,
Who had no doubt some noble creatures in her,
Dash'd all to pieces.”

VOL. II.

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THE
HERMIT OF CAUCASUS.

CHAP. I.

THE Persians had rode but a very few miles from their camp, before they discovered the objects of their search. They seemed a numerous band, and were stretching at full speed over a wide extended plain. Rustan pushed forward; the wind arose; the sky darkened; clouds of sand were whirl'd aloft into the atmosphere; the party vanished from their sight. In the mean time the rain, which had long

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been suspended, descended in torrents; lightning flash'd from the sky; a tremendous lucid stream struck upon the adjacent mountain, and by the temporary illumination it occasioned, discovered something, which had the appearance of a building. In their present distress, the Persians, glad to find any place that afforded a prospect of shelter, made toward it, with as much celerity as their horses, frightened by the thunder, which seemed to shake the earth to its basis, would suffer them to exert.

When they arrived at the building, they found it was a ruined caravanfary. The lightning and tempest continued, and were rendered still more terrific by the approach of night. They led their horses into the inner court, and retiring to the large hall, waited with anxiety till the morning favoured their
return

return to the camp; where, upon their entrance, great was their surprise to find the whole a scene of confusion: the soldiers were running in every direction, without seeming to have any settled purpose. Rustan went instantly to the tent of Selim; it was totally abandoned; thence to the ladies apartments, where he found Galatie in the greatest distress, supported by the English lady, and her attendant; they were guarded by Ivan, who had drawn a few of the Persian soldiers round the tent. Here he learned that Anime was missing, and as it was believed, carried off by the Arabian chief. Of the circumstances he could gather little more, than that when the sisters had taken leave of their father for the night, they were accustomed to spend some time with the English lady, whose chamber was only separated from theirs by being on the other side of a small

grass plat, and both were wholly enclosed by a rampart of earth, and, it was supposed, inaccessible to any, but the few female slaves that attended them. While they were in deep discourse, a noise startled them: Anime step'd forward, and was directly seized; an attempt was made upon the other ladies, but their cries alarmed the guards; a scuffle ensued; the ruffians abandoning them, retreated to their companions, who, mounted on swift Arabian horses, carried off the affrighted Anime, before Amurath or Selim were apprised of the transaction.

When they were informed of the atrocious outrage that had been committed, the grief of the former, and fury of the latter, are scarcely to be expressed. An order was given to call over the names of the men, to discover who was missing from the camp, which order

der was immediately obeyed; but after the strictest inquiry it was found, that the only persons absent were the Arabian captain; another of the same nation, and the Afghlan prisoner. On these the suspicion consequently fell. Selim, though scarcely recovered, determined to go in pursuit of them. Amurath, notwithstanding the entreaties of Galatie, persisted in the same resolution. Several of the Persians offered themselves as volunteers on the occasion; so leaving Ivan, and the other soldiers to guard the ladies, at the dawn of day they set out upon the expedition.

When Rustan had collected this account, of which, part was delivered with great difficulty by Galatie, in the intermission of her sighs and tears; he was some time in dilemma, whether he should join the pursuers, or remain;

but when he surveyed the camp, and observed how slenderly they were guarded, he thought, from the tribes hovering about, he risked more in going than staying ; therefore, at least till he heard from Selim, he determined to continue where he was.

After reducing the soldiers to order, he returned to Galatie, to whom he administered all the consolation her circumstances would admit of, by praising the valour, the vigilance, the good conduct of Selim, and representing the very great chance there was, that he had, long before that time, overtaken the Arabian. These hopes, for a short space, buoy'd up her sinking spirits ; but alas ! they vanished with the return of Amurath and the Bassa, after a pursuit of two days, in which they had not been able to discover the least trace of the fugitives.

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The unhappy father threw himself upon the earth, in a transport of passion, which it required all the efforts of Galatie, Rustan, and the English lady, to subdue, and Selim retired to his tent in silent dejection.

While things were in this situation, a Dervise entered the camp, and inquiring for the chief, was conducted to the head quarters, by Rustan.

Selim, displeased to be broke in upon, eagerly asked him, "What his business was?" the Dervise replied, "Son, look upon me." The eyes of the Bassa were now turned upon him with great attention, when the Dervise said, "Perhaps a man so accustomed to perform acts of benevolence as Selim, may not recollect that he once saved the property, and ultimately the life of Fazel; who, oppressed by the

ruled gripe of the law, and condemned to perpetual imprisonment, for a debt which was contracted by his friendship for another, owed his emancipation to Selim. "You, I well remember," he continued, "not only interested yourself in my affairs, but gave me money to retire from Ispahan. I joined a party of Dervises, and, after performing a novitiate, took the habit of their order. We have since wandered over a great part of Persia, sometimes in companies, at other times singly, as was the case a few days since; when travelling on the adjacent road, I was met by a band of horsemen, that had surrounded, and were using force to carry off a young lady, who tearing the veil from her face, just as they approached me, pronounced the name of Selim. The horsemen replaced the bandage over her eyes, and they were out of sight in an instant. My way to the place of my destina-

destination, lay along the road which led to this camp, which I was surprised to see ; and that surprise was considerably increased, when I heard that Selim was the commander of it. I then thought it necessary to inform you of the event to which I have alluded ; which, with the happiness I feel, in having this opportunity to return your thanks for former benevolence, is my reason for this intrusion."

Rustan could scarcely let the Dervise finish, so great was his eagerness to pursue the ravishers of Anime. He inquired minutely the road they had taken, and collecting as large a party as it was prudent to draw from the camp, he set out, followed by the prayers of the Dervise, and the good wishes of the rest of his friends. They kept as near as possible to the track which Fazel had pointed out to them, for several

ral days, without discerning the least appearance of an enemy; when one evening, vexed and irresolute, whether they should proceed or return, they arrived at a small village upon the bank of a river.

Here Rustan determined to halt, and consider what further steps he should take toward the recovery of the object of his search.

At this place they made the same inquiries, that they had at several others, but with better success, for they received information that a troop of horsemen, such as the Dervise had described, had passed through the village a few days before. The next morning, therefore, the vigilant Rustan renewed his pursuit. They travelled with great precipitation, until they came to one of those august monuments of the
ancient

ancient Persian grandeur, which consisted of the magnificent ruins of a temple.

The columns that had formed the aisles, part of the roof, and the eastern window, were standing. Where the Mosaic pavement had been broken, trees of various sorts, among which were the palm, the wild fig, the cedar, the cypress, and all the different species of clinging plants, had sprung up spontaneously, which forcing their branches through the broken windows, hanging from the arches, and straying over the cornice; their various coloured leaves and fruit, formed a beautiful contrast to the whiteness of the building.

The soldiers of Rustan were for continuing their pursuit, but the attention of the chief was attracted by a cottage, which reared its humble head in the

immense porch of the fabric. He rode up to the place, and discovered an old man, busily employed in making a coarse kind of rush mats, which were used amongst the lower order of the Persians; an old woman was preparing the materials; a young one nursing an infant, and two children were plucking the rushes from bundles, and arranging them, while others were playing around. Rustan approached; the matron retired within the pales; the old man came forward to meet him. To the inquiry of the chief, he answered, that the persons he described had sheltered themselves in the temple; that they had left it but the day before, and were, he believed, encamped at no great distance; in the direction to which he pointed. Rustan wanted no further stimulus to induce him to pursue. The party rode all night, and soon after sunrise, discovered, upon a small plain, the
Arabians

Arabians striking their tents, and preparing to set out. They flew upon them like lightning, a severe conflict ensued. One of the first victims to the fury of Rustan, was the Arabian captain, who, cleft by his cimeter, sunk under the feet of the Persian's horse. The troop fell into confusion, and Rustan called to them to yield, which he supposed would be the consequence of the death of their leader; but his cries were instantly answered by a volley of shot. Another chief came out of the only tent that remained, and mounting a fiery steed, put himself at the head of the squadron, and charged the Persians with redoubled fury. The battle raged with violence on all sides; several of Rustan's men fell near him; despair gave the survivors courage, and they determined to make one general effort; the Persian commander rush'd upon the opposite chief: a stroke the latter made

made at him, falling short of its mark, he returned it by another, which took the head of his horse; the animal stumbling, brought the chief to the ground, and his turban that instant falling off, discovered the countenance of Asgar.

Nothing could equal the surprise of Rustan, who, vaulting from his steed, stood over him, with his cimetar pointed at his heart. The banditti, seeing their leader fall, fled different ways. The Persian foldiers surrounded their victorious chief, who exclaimed, "If thou dost not wish thy existence to end with the present moment, answer me, Where is the lovely Anime?"—"In yonder tent," replied Asgar, faintly. Rustan leaving him in the hands of his men, flew to her. She was attended by two female slaves, who were endeavouring to sooth and repress the
terrors

terrors of the moment. At the sight of him, she gave a shriek, and sunk into their arms. He waited 'till she became somewhat more composed, and then informed her, that by the death of the Arabian, and the capture of Asgar, she was free.

To the gratulations of Rustan, the inquiries of Anime succeeded. Her father, Galatie, the English lady, Selim, all were the objects of her attention, and her questions only ceased, when the duty of the chief called him to the plain, where, when he arrived, he found that Asgar, who had been lifted against a bank, was receiving all the succour from one of his attendants, and a Persian well skilled in surgery, which their present situation could afford.

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At his approach, the wounded Omrah faintly said, "A second time has the genius of Rustan soared above that of Asgar. Altho' the accident which now oppresses me, will not afford any great matter of triumph to a generous enemy, my state of body requires that I should have immediate assistance. The town of Kerman is within a few hours march; let me be conveyed thither; as I trust, that in my behaviour to Anime, an account of which you have doubtless heard, you see no cause for my detention, to answer any charges which she can bring against me for misdeeds towards her. The Arabian, who was the contriver of this expedition, has suffered for his ingenuity; though I must observe, that by him, as by myself, the strictest attention hath been paid to her honour, even according to her European notions of that matter."

Rustan,

Rustan, in reply, said, "That his situation precluded him from offering a word that could irritate or reproach a fallen enemy, but that the emancipation of Asgar must be pronounced from the lips of Anime." He therefore went directly to the tent, and informed her of the circumstance; she instantly declared him free, adding, that owing perhaps to his influence, a curb was put upon the daring spirit of the Arabian, which was probably the reason why, in such a desperate situation, she had so little cause to complain of the treatment she had received.

Agreeable to this intimation, Asgar was informed that he had liberty to depart. A kind of horse litter was constructed of the branches of trees; and in this manner, attended by the few of his men that remained, and a small detachment of Persians, he set forward.

CHAP. II.

LEAVING the party which carried off the wounded Asgar, slowly to pursue their journey, let us return to the tent, where, in the lovely Anime, a much more interesting object presents itself.

At the time that Rustan first approached her, the joy which his presence, crowned with victory, inspired, supported her spirits. She expressed her thanks with vivacity: she seemed all life and animation: but when a calm ensued: when the temporary tumult within her bosom, subsided, the
terror

terror and fatigue she had undergone, preyed upon her mind. She started at the slightest alarm; frequently sighed; burst into involuntary tears, and shewed all the symptoms, both of mental and corporeal indisposition. These symptoms infused grief into the heart of Rustan. The illness of Anime was at any time to be dreaded; but, in such a forlorn situation, it would be attended with ten-fold horror. Wishing to rouse, to stimulate her to exertions, which he hoped would, in some degree, shake off her present indisposition, he spoke of their return; and mentioned the tender inquietude of her father; the affectionate sorrow of Galatie. She heard him without emotion, and folding her arms, sunk upon the couch of-turf, in an apathy more terrific than the most violent grief would have been.

Though

Though the climate was mild, yet, as the year was far advanced, the necessity of her removal from the dampness of a tent, was obvious. The old man's cottage, which he had passed the day before, came into his mind. Her illness increased. A kind of palanquin was hastily formed, in which she was carried by the soldiers, and about noon the next day, they arrived at the humble dwelling.

Let the inhabitants of loftier domes :
let the sons and daughters of luxury :
let the ardent enthusiasts, who sacrifice
their virtue at the shrine of riches,
blush, when the way-worn traveller ;
the stranger oppressed with sorrow ; the
pallid, but still lovely daughter of indigence,
shrinks from their magnificent
palaces, and elegant mansions, disgusted
with the roughness of refusal, that hath
added fresh stings to the vipers of
poverty

poverty and disappointment which are preying upon their hearts. Let them turn and behold the attention, the tenderness, the benevolence, that plays upon the countenance, but possesses the soul, and which was never more strongly displayed, than in the reception of Anime at the cottage of Zamaspes !

Ruftan, who had attended at her side with the most sedulous concern, when they came near, spur'd his horse forward, to prepare them to receive her. The old man was engaged in his occupation when the chief alighted, and addressed him in the following words :

“ Does that benevolence, for which the ancient Persians were celebrated, and which has fled before the conquering arms of the Sophi's, and wide extended

tended commerce of the Europeans, from the cities and large towns of this mighty empire, still reside in the habitations of the peasants?"

"Why should you doubt it?" said Zamaspes, "a life which has not passed without affording some opportunities for observation, informs me, that the class of men who are below affluence, and above want, are the last that will catch the contagious example, which in the present age, the very high and the very low, exhibit to their view. They may be considered, in some degree, as the depositories of the little religion, virtue and morality, that still remain in Persia."

"I consider them so," replied Rustan, "and in that confidence ask the relief which a lovely female, worn
down

down with terror, fatigue and sickness, requires."

Indignation, at this instant, flash'd from the eyes of the peasant. "Did that charity," said he, "with which our religion dictates, that we ought to judge of the words and actions of others, allow me, from this short conversation, to think unfavourably of you; I should conclude you an impostor, and your tale of distress a fabrication! Zamaspes you could not know, but the general character of men of our order you might, and that knowledge would have informed you, that the bare mention of sickness and distress were sufficient, without adverting to circumstances, or complimenting our benevolence, at the expence of mankind in general, to engage our utmost exertions." He directly summoned his family; an apartment which had formerly belonged to

to the larger building, was prepared. The attention of the old man and his wife to Anime, was parental; and the care of the young woman, like that of a beloved sister.

While the beautiful invalid recovered slowly, Rustan dispatched part of his men to the camp of Selim, with the account of his success, his conquest of Asgar, and every circumstance that had happened to him since his departure.

The grief that had corroded the heart of Amurath, had gathered considerable strength from the late misfortune. It was not in the power of the amiable and lovely Galatie to sooth, or reason down his melancholy. Hour after hour, he spent in the solitude of his own tent.

Selim

Selim wished to communicate his situation to Ismael; but alas! the advanced season had rendered the ways through the caverns impassable: two men had attempted it, but returned without succeeding. The English lady, and her attendant, were daily hoping that some opportunity would offer for their conveyance to the place of their destination, or at least to the British settlements.

In this posture of affairs at the camp, Galatie was often left with Selim: they communicated their sentiments to each other: they found relief in mutual confidence: what at first was casual, became habitual. In the sympathetic respect, and tender consolation of the Bassa, she experienced a pleasure heretofore unknown.

To obviate the dullness of the passing hour, he informed her of the manners and customs of nations which he had read of, or seen in his travels. Made observations upon the beauties of nature ;—the productions of art ; the progress of literature ;—the comparative scale of human happiness, from savage ferocity to polished civilization.

She replied. Her remarks seemed his own ideas illuminated and reflected back upon his mind with double lustre. These meetings became absolutely necessary to their existence. They plighted their faith to each other, and Selim obtained leave to ask the consent of Amurath, with a view to be united the first opportunity.

The present hour, they saw with concern, was not a time to mention a circum-

circumstance of that nature to the father: therefore, leaving the lovers to the enjoyment of the tenderest friendship, and in the pleasing expectation of future bliss, let us return to Anime, who, under the hospitable roof of Zamaspes, and attended by Meroe and Norival her daughter, was daily regaining strength and spirits.

If Rustan was at first pleased with the appearance of the Sire, every hour confirmed the favourable impression which their meeting had made upon his mind. The strong sense with which his conversation abounded, and the integrity of his heart; together with the new mode of life which the cottage presented, induced him frequently to sit by him, while he pursued his labours. But not only to the family of Zamaspes were Anime and himself obliged for assistance; several other Peasants,

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like

like them, had taken shelter beneath the ample roof, and within the walls of the temple. He was conducted to every part of it. When he walked through the nave, the cottages constructed between the immense columns, afforded the most picturesque contrast. "What a vast variety of the most beautiful marbles! What a profusion of the most elegant sculpture! What a quantity of gilding, painting, and other ornaments," exclaimed Rustan, "hath been employed to erect and decorate this superb pile. How few, even of the coarsest materials, would serve to form the humble building that now attracts my attention?" "And yet," said Zamaspes, "the voice of sincerity; the sigh of penitence, and the prayer of the humble and contrite heart, ascend as soon, and meet with as favourable a reception at the

the throne of mercy, from the one as the other.

“The pile in which we now are,” he continued, “was raised long before the time of Darius. It was dedicated to the sun, by the ancient Magi. In their adorations to that bright luminary, they were supposed to address one Almighty and Omnipotent Being, whose symbol was fire, and whose powerful influence, and vivifying principle, pervaded all nature. The Gaurs of the present time are said to retain many of their customs, and to preserve the sacred fire with the greatest care, in remembrance of their predecessors and prophets.”

While he was speaking, the sun burst through the eastern window in meridian splendour, and shewed, to the greatest advantage, the august

vestiges of ancient magnificence, intermixed with the ivy, shrubs and herbs, which had crept through the interstices of the stones, and hung in festoons from the lofty dome, to the roof of the turf-crown'd cottages in the area below. A luminous ray stole imperceptibly upon the cornice and capitals, round many of which, a plant of the brightest vernal green, twin'd its extensive arms: transits of light and shade every moment varied the effect, and Rustan retired from the building, impressed with awe and veneration; and in that contemplative state of mind, which the sublimity of such scenes generally inspires.

Anime, the lovely Anime, was in some degree restored to health: weakness, which was every day decreasing, was the only symptom of illness that remained. When she viewed the
edifice,

edifice, she was, like the Persian chief, struck with wonder and admiration: but a source of still greater admiration and pleasure to her, was the family of Zamaspes, particularly Norival and her children. Married at an early period of life, after several years of happiness, her husband had been compelled to follow the fortunes of the Omrah of the province. Twenty revolutions of the moon had passed, since he had joined the numerous army that had marched for Indostan: since which time they had heard no news from him. The grief of Norival was communicated to the gentle bosom of Anime: they embraced the children, and mingled their tears together. More interested in the family by the tale she had heard, they became her companions; nor were they unnoticed by Rustan, who joined with his lovely

charge in her admiration of their infantile sports.

The messengers that had been sent to the camp of Selim, now returned, with the pleasing information, that Amurath, Galatie, and the rest of the company, intended to join them at the cottage of the temple. The troops, under the conduct of Ivan, tired of the desultory life they had led, and secure of pardon, resolved to accept of an offer that had been made them, by means of the Dervise, and return to the Persian army. A few of the friends of Selim, determined to partake of his fortunes; this led him to endeavour to reinstate himself in the favour of the Sophi, by means of a petition, and representation of the injustice of the persecution against him: or if that failed, he resolved, with them, to seek employment

ployment in the armies of the Great Mogul.

When the Dervise first heard his story, he had voluntarily offered to convey his dispatches and petition to Ispahan, and promote his suit with all the influence of his order, which, he added, was considerable. In the meantime the Bassa, Amurath, Galatie, the English lady, and their friends, joined Rustan and Anime.

The benevolent Zamaspes received them in the porch, and his tongue spoke the language of his heart, when he welcomed them to the temple. He led them to an interior part, in which there was sufficient room to pitch their tents, and offered up his prayers to heaven, that they might find in it a secret and secure retreat.

CHAP. III.

ZAMASPES had, like his son-in-law, been forced into the army in his youth. After he had obtained his discharge, he left Bagdad, where he had spent many years of his life, and with his wife Meroe, had retired to the spot which he now inhabited. A small capital, hardly earned, by danger and military toil, enabled him to purchase a few adjacent fields; part of which were laid out in rice plantations, and the remainder consisted of an orchard and garden, the care of which afforded him employment during the summer. When his harvest was gathered, his
fruits

fruits dried, and his store of provision and vegetables laid up; until seed time returned, a manufacture of mats and baskets filled up his time. In this occupation he was assisted by the younger branches of his family. His example had been followed by other Peasants; cottages rose around him, and under his auspices a neighbourhood was formed.

Rustan was delighted with the happiness that seemed to reign among these people. He often conversed with the old man. "Most of the cottagers, your neighbours," he one day said, "appear perfectly contented with their lot in life. Like their fellow labourer, the ox, they pursue their daily round of toil without intermission, and as it were, by instinct. At these I wonder not: but that a mind like that of Zamaspes, could be

content to be chain'd down to the earth ; that a man who hath seen different regions and countries, can humble his spirit, and confine his ideas to one spot, is a source of amazement to me."

" After Tamerlane," replied Zamaspes, " had extended his conquests over great part of Asia: after he had defeated, and taken Bajazet prisoner, and had, almost daily, added town to town, and province to province, till the names and description of his acquisitions could scarcely be recorded in an hundred volumes ; upon his return to Persia, he was attended by a Chieck, of the name of Aidar, who, was not only a man of the greatest religion and virtue, but also of a pleasant disposition ; fond of domestic enjoyment, and innocent hilarity. As the Emperor, at certain times, chose to unbend,

unbend, and seek the society of his subjects, he one day entered the house of Aidar: it was upon a family festival. The whole of his children, their offspring, and relations, were assembled. The disguise of Tamerlane secured him from the knowledge of any, except the master of the feast; who, after the salutations were over, taking the company into a large saloon, which overlooked a beautiful garden, began a discourse, in which, with great art, he introduced something which glanced at the advantages that each of his auditors enjoyed in their present situation; the pleasure and merit of confining our desires to things within our reach: he explained to them how, by the assistance of economy, mediocrity might be converted into affluence; and concluded with an elogium upon benevolence; upon the adoration we should pay to
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the Omnipotent, and the relative duties we should observe, as members of the same state, province, or neighbourhood, To this mental entertainment succeeded a collation, at which the most undisguised mirth, and genuine satisfaction, seemed to reign. The younger part of the company arose to dance on the grass-plats in the garden. The elder retired into arbours, furnished with cooling liquors, and passed their time in conversation.

Tamerlane was enchanted with the day; it brought to his mind the pleasures of his youth, which the years that had since elapsed, had, in some degree, wiped from the tablets of his memory, and he fancied himself again enjoying the family scenes that had passed in the place of his nativity.

Next morning, when remembrance recalled the pleasing vision, he spoke to the Chieck. "Would to Allah," said he, "that I could divest myself of care; could spend my days in the same hilarity that I experienced in your domestic circle of yesterday."

"There was a time, oh Tamerlane!" replied Aidar, "when thou mightest have done it: but alas! that time is past."

"What hinders me from retrieving it?" said the Emperor.

"Ambition!" replied the Chieck; a rage for foreign conquest! and the consequences of that passion. Great would be the merit of Tamerlane, in descending from the Persian throne, and becoming the chief of a Parthian village, had he no duties to perform
except

except those which relate to himself: but when he considers the confusion which his abdication would create: that benevolence, which extends to all his subjects: that protection, which it has been the business of his life to acquire a right to dispense to them, precludes him from the attempt, and he must continue to hold the sceptre, which has been the object of his pursuit, long after that toy has lost its novelty; a martyr to the repose, the safety, the good of the public. Happier! far happier! is the man, who having run his race, without deviating from the common course, sits down, in the evening of his day, contented with the few things which providence hath been pleased to allot to him, and from the midst of his domestic circle, his friends and connexions, views the bustle of the world, and the contention of mankind, as he would those of a market.

market or fair, in which he is no longer desirous of becoming a chapman. Whose wishes, bounded by the narrow space of his dwelling, retire into his breast, in expectation of that awful moment, which will render his mortal part the inhabitant of a still narrower mansion. This story, though perhaps not strictly applicable," continued Zamaspes, "may serve, in some degree, to elucidate my sentiments, and shew you that I join with Aidar to condemn ambition; that I equally reprobate that rage for novelty, that change of place and situation; those frivolous pursuits, and the long train of evils that arise from attempts at the appearance of opulence, or endeavours to outvie each other, reprehensible at any, but sinful at an advanced period of life, which so strongly mark the character of the present race of Persians."

It

It was at this period of the discourse of Zarnaspes, that Amurath, Selim, and their friends, as has been mentioned in the last chapter, arrived. The whole family, nay, the whole village, went out to meet them; and the congratulations of Rustan and Anime, were forced to give place to the eagerness with which the cottagers welcomed their new visitors. They pitched their tents under the direction of Zarnaspes, in the extensive area of the temple, which afforded ample convenience for that purpose.

Here Selim and Amurath determined to fix their abode, till they could arrange their affairs, so as to return to their native countries, with that respect to which innocence is entitled; or that it was decided, that they must banish themselves from Persia for ever.

The

The attachment that subsisted between the Bassa, and Galatie, had not passed unnoticed by her father, and a very few days had elapsed, before he had occasion to make the same observation, with respect to the tender glances, and marked attention from Rustan to Anime.

The service he had rendered her ; the concern he had shewn during her indisposition, and the opportunities that had occurred in the cottage of the temple, for unrestrained conversation, had made a strong impression upon the heart of the latter ; and although he had never directly spoken to her of love, the tenor of his discourse had been upon the subject of that passion ; and the implication too mark'd to be misunderstood, by a person even less interested than his fair auditor. She frequently mentioned him with animation ;

mation; and when she gave an account of the manner in which she was seized by the Arabian captain; how she was conveyed to a village, where a troop of horse, commanded by Asgar, waited, and there delivered up to him; the hardships she suffered from precipitate travelling; from their opposition to her endeavours to attract the attention of passengers, when any appeared upon the road; and the threats with which the ravisher urged his suit; down to the circumstance of her fortunate rescue; her gratitude to the hero of that expedition was unbounded.

Rustan, encouraged by the lively sense she seemed to have of her obligations to him, at the next opportunity, which a private conversation afforded, with some hesitation, asked her hand as a reward.

After

After a moment's consideration, she replied, "It would be a breach of truth, of which, I hope Anime is incapable, to say this claim of Rustan's is unexpected. It would be a trait of female weakness, to which, I hope, I am superior, to seem offended. When I confess the obligations I am under to him, both for former services, and present good opinion, I feel emotions of the most lively gratitude. Gratitude has hitherto been the strongest passion of my soul, and possesses me so entirely, that it is impossible to discriminate, whether my present impulse in his favour arises from that, or a tenderer sentiment. To time, therefore, suffer me to refer the decision. I here offer you my hand in friendship; and when that friendship meliorates into love, shall place upon the list of the other conquests of Rustan, that of a heart, which,

which, till summoned by him, remained unsubdued."

As in this speech of Anime's, the lover found sufficient encouragement to persevere, he resolved to urge her no further at that time; they joined their friends, and Galatie producing the manuscript which contained the adventures of the English lady, requested her sister to take up the story where it had been drop'd, and read it to the company.

PART THE FOURTH.

CHAP. IV.

A man there led a rural life,
And had command o'er all the shepherds,
Who about those vales tended their numerous flocks.

DRYDEN.

Continuation of the Story of the
ENGLISH LADY.

THE alarm that had been given,
and the confusion that reign'd in the
camp, said Anime, broke off the story;
at Mr. R***** was a gentleman
2 rather

rather older than my father, higher in office; and it was supposed, richer than the husband of my sister. Indeed, if the state and magnificence of our establishment were to be considered as indications of wealth, richer than an European Monarch. The splendid dullness with which all our affairs was conducted; the ridiculous parade which attended our domestic arrangements, would tire you as much in the description, as they did me in the reality. The characteristic of the English Asiatics, is ostentation; a folly to which I had formerly seen so much ease and happiness sacrificed, that I, very early in life, took a disgust at it. But what was European ostentation, or even that of our Indian contemporaries, compared to that which pervaded the mind of Mr. R*****? He had not married me for love, but beauty. He judged that, if Emilia
and

and myself, in the simplicity of our attire, appeared the most elegant of the groupe of matrimonial candidates ; my person, which he thought more striking than even that of my sister, would, when bedecked with gaudy trappings, surpass all the ladies around, as much in loveliness as in splendour. He was deceived, I was not. There are features and even forms, which may, I have been told, though I much doubt it, receive advantage from a profusion of jewels and ornaments. There are figures, perhaps, to which the paraphernalia of dress is adapted ; mine, unfortunately, was not of that description.

When his wife appeared in public, Mr. R***** had the mortification to find, that though she carried the revenue of a province dispersed over the various parts of her attire, she was less

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admired, than in her plain muslin dress. The paucity of jewels in my composition, was the only reason that he could give, to himself, for the inattention of his friends. I was oppressed with still greater splendour, which certainly made me, and ultimately him, subjects of conversation, though not quite in the way he would have wished; for though the person of Mrs. R***** was but little the object of admiration, her diamonds became greatly so. They were the talk of the whole city, and, indeed, a hint was given to Mr. R*****, by a friend, that an account of them had been transmitted to England, where, upon his arrival, an inquiry would be made into his economy, in order to ascertain the means by which he had been able, from the mere savings of his salary, for he was not allowed any other mode of acquisition, to

decorate

decorate his wife with such expensive ornaments.

This hint strip'd my toilet of many superfluities, and Mr. R*****, in future, suffered me to dress under the guidance of my own taste.

As his matrimonial ostentation had been stop'd at one point, it rag'd in another. Entertainments, balls, and all the appendages of luxury, were continued, and indeed daily increasing.

We had now been married near two years; and as we both wished to revisit our native country, it was with pleasure we received the news, that an English fleet was discerned making for the harbour, as we had hopes that the commander had brought letters of recall.

The governor was absent; Mr. R*****, the greatest man in the settlement: what a glorious opportunity for a grand display! the fleet came to an anchor. The Admiral, General, and their suites were invited. Of our magnificent preparations I shall say nothing, but that my husband insisted I should, upon this occasion, load myself with my long neglected ornaments. I remonstrated, but to no purpose; the wife of the principal person in the colony could not be too fine.

When the company were assembled, I did not appear till summoned. I gave my hand to Mr. R*****, who led me to the head of the table. Many ladies took their seats near me. The first course was served, during which a confusion arose at the lower end, as it was said, from the sudden illness of a young officer. I stood up to order him

him assistance, when my eyes were struck with the features of Charles Egerton, and I instantly fainted.

Of the disorder that ensued, I can give no account; when I revived, I found myself in my own chamber, surrounded by my attendants. Still the vision of Charles flitted before my sight, though I could not collect my ideas sufficiently to determine, whether the cause of my fainting had been real or an illusion. I was so deeply absorbed in reverie, that my husband had been some minutes in the chamber before I perceived him. Disgusted with the observations of the company, who had just retired, upon the cause of my fainting, and the illness of the young officer, whose elegant figure by no means pleased him, he let loose a torrent of reproach. Accused me of having deceived him; of perfidy;

prior engagement, and a long train of crimes, the ready coinage of his disturbed imagination. When he ceased, for want of breath, I thus addressed him.

“ Mr. R*****, neither the present state of your mind, nor of my health, would permit me to retort your obloquy, if I had an inclination to do it. I beg I may be left alone, till greater serenity in the tempers of both, enables me to lay before you, that which I should much sooner have done, had you ever expressed the least curiosity to know it, the history of my former life. I owe too much to myself, to the dignity of my sex, and my own honour, to leave my fame to the aspersions of your malignant tongue: hear my story; judge me with candour; compare my former and present conduct, and if you then find the smallest deviation from principle or rectitude,
let

let me be condemned to return to that poverty and obscurity, from which you vaunt that you have elevated me."

Mr. R***** retired, and in a few days we came to an eclaircissement. When I related my story, the engagement, which in early years, had subsisted between Charles, and myself, and the subsequent misfortunes, if they could be so called, of my family, which forced me into his arms, he heard with attention; exactly the account he had before heard from Charles, when that young man waited upon him to apologize for the confusion his illness had occasioned.

He seemed satisfied with my conduct. Upon this event I discovered a strange perversion in the human mind. I excused the transports of my husband, while I imagined him jealous of

my love; but, I must own he sunk in my opinion, when I found his ill humour had another motive: jealous, indeed he was; but it was of his own consequence in the opinion of the world. He would have cared little for my former attachment, had it remained a secret: but a public discovery that I had lov'd, and been belov'd, by any person except himself, was scarcely to be borne.

By the ships which had arrived, I received letters from my father, filled with congratulations upon my good fortune, as he termed it, and some compliments to his own foresight, in the prudent disposal of his daughters.

My sister also informed me of her landing in England, and added, that a report was in circulation, that Mr. R***** would be ordered home.
-How

How different are we at different periods of our lives? what I had wish'd for, almost ever since my arrival, was now, to me, a source of the greatest uneasiness. Could I, however opposite it might be to my duty, leave without reluctance, a country, in which Charles had just arrived? This was the first sentiment that occurred, upon hearing of the probability of our removal: yet I checked the idea as soon as it rose in my mind.

What now was Charles to me? What could he ever be? With the army, at a vast distance from Calcutta, there was little chance of my seeing him again; and if there were, would it not be the very thing which I ought by all means to avoid?

In this train of thinking I reasoned down my grief, and with a gloomy

kind of patience, waited for the mandate that was to recall us to our native country. At last it arrived. The bustle and preparations for our departure, in some measure diverted my anxiety, and I fancied that I was ready to leave the Indian shore with cheerfulness.

A few days before we were to sail, Mr. R***** was taken ill. He at first made slight of his indisposition, and attributed it, perhaps justly, to the fatigue he had undergone, in his exertions to accelerate our departure. In a short space, however, his disorder assumed a more serious aspect. In one week he was given over, and died at the end of a fortnight, leaving me in possession of a large part of his acquisitions.

To

To say that I lamented him, with that poignancy of sorrow; with that violence of grief, which follows the loss of the husband of one's heart; of the tender companion of one's choice, would be a falsehood, of which I by no means design to be guilty. Every respect that could be paid to his memory, my gratitude prompted me to bestow; and I mourned him as a friend, to whom I had the greatest obligations.

As many of our effects were on board, and the ship ready to sail, I was strongly urged to take my passage in her to England. This I as strongly opposed, and indeed had family reasons, beside those which my attachment to Charles suggested, that determined me to stay in Asia. I accordingly reduced my establishment, settled my affairs, and began to live upon my own plan.

Though I had frequently heard of the operations of the army, more than a twelvemonth had passed, without the least news of Charles. Piqued at a conduct, which I could not help attributing to coldness or neglect, I began to be disgusted with Calcutta, and had determined to think seriously of taking my passage to England the first opportunity.

In this state of mind, I was one day sitting in the saloon, and sketching a letter which I intended to leave with a friend, to be given him after my departure. The employment in which I was engaged, had so absorb'd my ideas, that I wrote on, regardless of the objects around, when turning my eyes to a large pier glass, I saw the image of my lover leaning over me. I gave a shriek, and should have fallen, but that he caught me in his arms, ex-
claiming,

claiming, "How could my angel, my lovely Maria, suppose that the least neglect could arise on the part of Charles, to the object of his earliest, his only adoration? A campaign the most harrassing; war the most desultory, has precluded me from even writing by any regular conveyance. A letter which I trusted to a friend, travelling towards this place, and which merely contained inquiries after your health, I have reason to think," he continued, glancing his eye upon my paper, "never came to your hands. The moment I was released from my duty, I flew to Calcutta, and find my lovely Maria."—"As she deserves to be found," I replied, interrupting him, covered with blushes for her own inadvertence. "Did I not know the generosity of your nature, Charles, and that the carelessness of the present moment will not be misconstrued, I should
sink

sink into the earth at beholding that paper in your hand: but you have already, in the perusal of it, seen that it was not to be delivered till after I had failed." " Good heavens !" said Charles, " Does my charming Maria think an apology necessary for any thing in this paper ? What does it contain, but that which we have a hundred times said to each other ? At liberty to fulfil your engagement, I need not hint my former disappointment, or my long years of suffering, to accelerate my happiness." " Indeed, Charles, you need not," I replied, " the share I have borne in them, is too strong in my remembrance : nothing but the shortness of the time since a late event." " Sure," said he, " my Maria has paid every tribute that decency, that etiquette requires : let us, therefore, seize the present happy moment, and enter into engagements,

ments, which no earthly power can dissolve." "I need scarcely add, that convinced by the reasons which Charles gave for the speedy celebration of our nuptials, I became his wife."

Happy now, perfectly happy in each other, we turned our thoughts to our native country. Two reasons opposed our leaving Indostan; one of which was, my pregnancy, and the other the war, which made it dishonourable for him to quit the army. Another year elapsed; the war raged with greater fury; I was continually urging him to withdraw from the service, fearful of the event which soon after happened, an order to join his corps; which, with other troops just arrived, were to march to a vast distance from Calcutta. I had hardly recovered from my second lying-in, when this news fell like a thunder-bolt, and threw me into an indispo-

indisposition, which was very near having a fatal termination.

In the mean time my husband was obliged to march; which he did in the utmost anxiety and distress, leaving me on the bed of sickness, without a gleam of comfort but what I derived from caressing my two infants.

I shall pass over the different sensations of my mind, upon the arrival of advices from the army. With what hope I looked forward to a peace, when the smallest advantage gained over the enemy, gave me an opportunity to indulge that flattering illusion; or, how I was seized with despondence, when the operations of the troops were either impeded or unsuccessful. In short, I followed my husband, in idea, through every attack or retreat; and, so much had fear and anxiety upon his account,

account, taken possession of my mind, that, had not the care of my infants demanded my presence, I doubtless should, in reality, have partook with him the hardships of the campaign.

“Alas! ill-fated Charles!” said the lady, looking at the picture which she had recovered from the Arabian, “perhaps this faint resemblance of thy benign countenance, had better have remained in the hands of banditti, as it only serves to awaken, and add greater poignancy to my sorrow. Alas! equally ill-fated children! if ye are yet living, abandoned by your parents, to what dangers may ye be exposed?”

“Here,” said Anime, “a gush of tears relieved the lady, and she continued her story.”

Two months had passed, and nothing had been heard from the army. The report at Calcutta, though nobody knew whence it arose, was, that the powers of the country, the French and the British, tired of a war, from which, only individuals derived advantage, had determined to enter upon an agreement for a suspension of arms, which it was hoped would terminate in a peace.

Though I could not trace this news to any solid foundation, so pleasing was it to my mind; so congenial to my wishes, that I gave involuntary credit to it, and the pleasure which merely thinking it might be true, diffused around my heart, enabled me to support my spirits during the interval.

A messenger from the army, at length arrived: I flew to the palace of
the

the Governor; with great tenderness he informed me, that although there was a letter directed to me, as it came under his cover, he feared it was not from Captain Egerton. Judging from this, that the most fatal event had taken place, I exclaimed, "He is dead!" and sunk upon the sofa. "Far from it," replied the Governor. "It would be useless and vain to endeavour to conceal from you, that there has been an action, in which our troops have suffered considerably, and many of the officers are killed. Here is the list, you will see that the name of Captain Egerton is not among that number. I observe your generous and susceptible heart feels for the distress which this fatal paper must communicate to the widows and friends of those unfortunate men: How will they look with envy upon this list, which contains the wounded, and say, had my husband or
father

father been in that situation, with care and attention he would probably have recovered; or, had he been a prisoner, he would soon have been released: but dead: lost, irrecoverably lost. You see, madam, how much greater the distresses of others are than your own," continued the Governor; "and as I observe, what I have said has made a proper impression upon your mind, I leave you for a few minutes, to the perusal of this letter." Upon which he immediately put a paper into my hand, and withdrew.

The Governor gave to my composure more credit than it deserved. The first shock had thrown a kind of stupor over my spirits; I felt the greatest dread: my mind seemed oppressed by the most horrible ideas; yet my judgment was not clear enough to enable me to distinguish what they were.

were. Tears refused to come to my relief. I had sat, perhaps, a long time in this torpid state, looking upon the superscription of the unopened letter, when a young lady entered the room. At the noise which the door made, I started. She retreated a few paces back; when, looking at me with the utmost benignity of aspect, "Forgive madam," she said, "this intrusion upon your privacy; on my part it is involuntary. My father, hindered by public affairs, from again paying his respects to you, commanded me to offer my services, such as they are: but I see you are oppressed with sorrow; away with forms, let me lend you my support, feeble as it is." Saying this, the lovely girl threw her arms around me, and seemed to partake of my grief. There is a charm in sympathy; her attention recalled my scattered thoughts; I reclined my head upon

upon her bosom, and the tears burst forth in a torrent. Never shall I forget the pains she took to sooth my anguish. When I was a little composed, I put the fatal letter into her hand, and she read the following words.

MRS. EGERTON,

at Calcutta,

Madam,

“ I am extremely unhappy that it should become a part of my duty, to convey unpleasing intelligence to a lady, whose character I so much esteem: but form must give place to military confusion, and compliment to the necessity of the times. Used, as I have been, to danger: to situations that require exertion; I can scarcely muster resolution to inform you, that Captain Egerton, who led the grenadiers, in the
late

late action, after sustaining the shock of a superior force, in a manner that will do the nation, himself, and the corps he commanded, honour, was wounded; yet not so much as to disable him; for, I understand, that he afterwards rallied his men, and that they returned to the charge with the greatest bravery: but numbers pouring down upon them, and being unsupported by the country troops; though I do not find that he again suffered personally, he was overpowered, and taken prisoner.

“ Though in the events of war, disagreeable circumstances will arise, of which, capture is one; yet it will doubtless be some consolation to you to hear, that he has fallen into the hands of the French.

“ Their

“ Their commander has been written to, who promises, that every attention shall be paid to the wounded officers and men ; and, although the Captain was not particularly mentioned, there is no doubt but that his merit will insure him the esteem of a generous enemy. As I feel for your anxiety, if I hear any thing that can alleviate the sorrow of the present hour, it will give me double pleasure in the opportunity it will afford me, to congratulate you upon better prospects, and to assure you again, that I am with the greatest respect,

Madam,

Your obedient humble servant,

Edward Denham.

Colonel 49th Infantry.

Camp near Patna.

My

My emotions, while this young lady was reading, may easily be conceived. I thought I discerned, through the hurry and inaccuracy with which the Colonel wrote, a desire to palliate the misfortunes of Charles. When she ceased, I asked her opinion. She said it was impossible to give any: "In the melancholy circumstances attendant upon Captain Egerton, all must be suspense and conjecture."

"Then tell me what you would do in my situation?" "Do," she repeated, with animation, "instantly set out, and attend my wounded husband! should the man I lov'd, languish in captivity, upon the bed of sickness, surrounded by strangers, perhaps in want of necessaries, and Charlotte not make a trifling exertion to perform that duty which she had vow'd to him at the altar?"

Sentiments so congenial to my own, enchanted me ; I embraced the lovely girl with rapture ; we exchanged our vows of friendship, and she promised to inspect into the conduct of those entrusted with the care of my children during my absence.

After procuring letters to the French commander, and enduring a variety of remonstrances from my friends, I set out, accompanied by my favourite servant, Lidia, and attended by a train of domestics. We had travelled above thirty days ; but it appeared, from the incorrect accounts of the movements of the armies, and the ignorance of our guides, greatly out of our way. In crossing an immense plain, our whole caravan was attacked, and I may add, yielded without the least resistance, to a party of wandering banditti, commanded by the Arabian Captain. I
was

was the less apprehensive upon falling into their hands, as I hoped the booty they had gained, and the vast promises I made them, would have induced them to convey me safely to the English army. This they engaged to do, but it appeared they never intended it, as they took, I have since understood, a quite different route, the event of which, to them is already known. With respect to myself, amidst the accumulated evils of the past, and dreadful suspense of the present moment, I consider my situation as fortunate, as I am taken out of their nefarious hands, and placed in those of Selim and his friends; to whose exertions and humanity, I shall probably owe more than the preservation of my life; even that of my honour; and from whose benevolence I have the liveliest hopes, that they will take the earliest opportunity of procuring me a

conveyance to the place of my destination; where, whatever misfortunes may be in store for me, they must be dreadful indeed, if they obliterate from my mind the obligations which I am under to the present company.

CHAP. V.

IN the various comments upon the story of the English lady, which had been read in the Persian language by Anime, the party passed their time that evening; and indeed were so interested by her tale, in the fate of the relater, that it was determined, if the Dervise should bring bad tidings from Ispahan, that Selim, Amurath and his daughters,

daughters, leaving Persia, should enter into the dominions of the Great Mogul, and convoy her part of the way to Calcutta. Banish'd from their own, all countries were alike to them: or, if any place seemed to afford a greater prospect of safety than another, they flattered themselves it would be found in some settlement belonging to the English.

When Maria heard of their determination, it redoubled her gratitude; for though the feelings of a wife, and mother, urged her speedy departure, yet the difficulty and danger she had already experienced, of travelling without a proper guard, through countries, in many parts barren and inhospitable; or in that state of confusion, which attends the vicinity of armies, check'd the ardour of her wishes, and

enabled her to wait the event, with some small degree of composure.

Zamaspes; the benevolent Zamaspes, being informed how much she was interested to inquire into the operations of the forces; and whether the war still raged in Indostan, went, on purpose, to the town where he used to dispose of his manufactures; but his inquiries were not attended with much success: he heard, in general, that the Indian princes were at war; but of any particular detail, the inhabitants were entirely ignorant.

Of more importance was another part of his intelligence. The town was that, at which the wounded Asgar had for some time languished. Though far from being perfectly recovered, he had, the day before, left the place, attended by a numerous retinue; who,
from

from what Zamaspes could collect, breathed vengeance against the Persians, for having put their lord into such a dangerous situation.

“How apt,” said he, “are men, when they are influenced by a party, to adopt the sentiments of their leader. However abandoned and profligate he may be, ocular demonstration will not convince them that he has acted wrong. To enforce this observation, there cannot be a stronger case than that of the blindness of the dependants of Asgar, to the vices of their master: they, forgetful of the outrage he had committed; far from thinking his present sufferings were the consequence of his former crimes, breathe the same spirit of revenge, as, if revenge is ever allowable, ought to animate them in the cause of innocence sinking under oppression. However,” continued he,

E 4 addressing

addressing himself to Selim and Amurath, "if they attempt to put their threats in execution, some time must elapse before it will be possible, and ere that period, I hope you will either meet with protection from their malignity, or have an opportunity to withdraw out of their reach."

While the old man was engaged in this discourse, one of his neighbours came to inform him, that a person at his cottage wish'd to speak to him: he accordingly went. In a short time Meroc was sent for.

Galatie and Anime, under the instructions of Norival, were framing a beautiful kind of wicker basket for flowers. The children, directed by Maria, were, in groups, amusing themselves by harnessing each other with ribands. The eldest girl was closely attending

attending to the operations of Lidia, who was instructing her to form some articles of the English dress, when Zamaspes entered among them. Pleasure, which he seemed with difficulty to restrain, played upon his countenance; when he said, "There is nothing that marks a light or trifling mind so strongly, as sudden emotions of joy or sorrow, upon common causes, and their consequences. When a friend leaves us, we know that there is the greatest probability ——"

"My husband is returned!" said Norival, flying to her father, and embracing him; "my husband's return'd!" she repeated, "let me instantly see him!"

"Hold," replied Zamaspes, "to guard you from these emotions ——"

“ You see, father, it was to no purpose,” said a young man that rush’d forward, and embrac’d her and the children, with the greatest fondness. “ You observe,” he continued, “ that I was perfectly right in desiring to be led to Norival directly, as the surprise of meeting me has not been attended with any ill effects.”

“ Though that is more than I know,” replied Zamaspes, “ there is one thing I can aver without fear of contradiction, that the man who opposes reason, to the dictates of passion ; the calmness and philosophy of age, to the impetuosity of youth, will lose his labour, as I have done. Happy it is, for you, my children, and will be for your posterity, that your ardour has its foundation on love for each other ; and that the passions of your youth are only active in the cause of virtue.”

virtue." He then introduced the young foldier to the ladies. Maria, through the medium of Galatie, eagerly inquired "From what part of the frontiers he came?" He answered, "from the borders of Indoftan." She burft into tears.

"I muft again interfere," faid Zamaſpes, "though perhaps with as little ſucceſs as before. Let the preſent hour, an hour that brings under my roof a dutiful ſon, an affectionate huſband, and a fond parent, be dedicated to innocent hilarity. My neighbours are already aſſembled, and the vaulted roof of the temple will ſoon ring with ſhouts of joy: Zamaſpes inveſts himſelf with the office of maſter of the feaſt; let me therefore requeſt this company, to honour the entertainment with their preſence, and we, my children, will now retire to prepare for their reception."

CHAP. VI.

WINTER, which it has been remarked, was so speedy in its approaches upon the mountain, and in its environs, had, as yet, made but small progress in the distant plains; especially those situated on the southern side of Caucasus. It was one of the finest days that had been known at the extremity of Autumn. The trees, though the vernal brightness of their green had faded upon the sight, were, perhaps, rendered still more interesting objects, by being loaded with ripe fruit. The vines that partly covered the cottages, bent beneath their clusters.

clusters. The cattle, no longer oppressed by the fervid rays of the sun, had dispersed themselves in groups, around the temple. The calmness of the air, and the gentler warbling of the birds, which the tepid gales dispersed around, seemed adapted to the mild solemnity of the season; a solemnity which was only broken by the jocund modulation of the reapers, who were conveying to their garner, their last loads of rice and other grain. The harvest had been abundant; the labourers of Zamaspes had finished that morning. His neighbours had done the same: therefore, they joyfully assembled, to return thanks to the Almighty, upon two interesting occasions; that of having compleated their various tasks, and for the arrival of the young soldier.

When

When Amurath and his company entered, they were led through that part of the enclosure, which had formerly been the garden of the temple, to a place where a spacious vestibule opened into the colonade. Part of the roof remained, and over the intervening area, a large lattice had been thrown, on which the vines spreading with the most unbounded luxuriance, drop'd their clusters in festoons through the squares, while their branches and leaves, twining across each other, broke the radiance of the light, and diffus'd the softest and most beautiful effect upon the heights, varied by the warm reflexes, and broad umbrageous tints spread over the other parts of the ruin. In the center of this romantic spot, an altar was raised, on which was laid rice, and other grain in the ear: dates, figs, and the various fruits of the season: it

was

was also decorated with all the flowers which could be collected.

Zamaspes advanced, and taking up a handful of the corn, said, "Can we look upon this first and greatest gift, which the bounty of Providence presents to us, without prostrating before the throne of Omnipotence, with the most awful gratitude? When we consider how little the labour required on our part, and yet how manifold the increase of a small grain: how it exerts itself in the womb of earth: how it shoots forth and spreads its stalks around: how the dews and rain descend from heaven to nurture, and the sun dispenses its influence to ripen it: ought we not to confess, that the more we contemplate the works of the Almighty, the more fervent should be our gratitude to him, who diffuses such numerous blessings around us? Are
not

not the fruits and flowers ; every thing which traverses the earth, swims in the sea, or flies through the air, in the same degree, the marks of his bounty to us ? And though it requires exertion and vigilance to guard against the depredations of the lion and the tyger ; and fortitude to repair, without repining, the devastations of storms and tempests : yet the former have doubtless their use, in the sight of him by whom nothing was created in vain : and the latter, though perhaps a scourge to our arrogance, and a partial evil, must, from their dispersion of noxious vapours, be considered as a universal good.

“ Let us, therefore, upon the return of this annual solemnity, offer up our prayers, our praises, and thanksgiving to the Almighty, for the blessings he has bestowed upon us through the year,
and

and endeavour to live in such a manner, as to merit the continuance of his bounty to us in future."

When Zamaspes had ended, a chorus of the daughters of the cottagers, arrayed in white, with garlands of corn and flowers twisted together, ranged themselves on each side the altar, and addressed the following hymn, through the medium of that bright luminary, the Sun, to the Omnipotent Being who hath created it.

THE HARVEST HYMN.

Eternal source of light and heat,
That with celestial rays
Illumes the world ! let all repeat,
To thee, their thanks and praise.
Through thy bright medium we address the throne
Of nature's Lord, whose power all nations own.

CHORUS.

C H O R U S.

Glory to him that was before all time ;
 Whose blessings spread to every age and clime.

On the first dawning of the year ;
 When zephyrs fan the tepid gale ;
 When nature's flow'ry brood appear,
 And gaily deck the verdant vale :

Almighty power ! thy works we trace,
 Through all that life respire :
 The beasts that graze, the insect race,
 The numerous feather'd choir.
 So while the heavens thy awful thunder shakes,
 Thy showers revive the earth, and vegetation wakes.

C H O R U S.

Glory to him that was before all time,
 Whose blessings spread to every age and clime.

Alike in summer's fervid heat ;
 In yellow fields of ripening corn :
 When flocks to cooling shades retreat,
 And clusters doth the vine adorn :

When

When nature's offspring bend beneath their load,
We laud thy name for every good bestow'd.

C H O R U S.

Glory to him that was before all time,
Whose blessings spread to every age and clime.

When autumn marks the year's decline,
And plenty crowns the cultur'd soil ;
Thy beams with fainter radiance shine,
And harvest cheers the labourers toil :
Thy works, Almighty power, we own,
In every season stand confess'd ;
We praise thee for thy bounty shewn,
We thank thee for this hour of rest.
In gratitude to thee our bosoms glow,
Alike through summer's heat and winter's snow.

C H O R U S.

Glory to him that was before all time,
Whose blessings spread to every age and clime.

This

This solemnity concluded, the whole company congratulated Zamaspes, Meroc and Norival, upon the arrival of Hassan. Tables were spread, and after a repast, distinguished more by the cheerfulness of the guests, than the profusion of delicacies, part of them, among whom was his own family, Selim, Rustan, Amurath, and his daughters, gathered about the young soldier, and desired him to recite the events of the campaign; while the others, either dispersed themselves in walking parties, or played upon the green.

Hassan began by relating, that the Omrah, under whom he served, held lands tributary to the Great Mogul, beside the fief he enjoyed under the Persian Monarch, who favouring the French, upon the first application, gave him permission to march the troops he
had

had raised in his own country, into Indostan.

“The war,” he continued, “raged with great violence between the British, Gallic, and the different Indian powers in their interests. We began our route in a very large body, and after a tedious march, in the latter part of which, we were continually harassed by the enemy, we joined the French.

“To attempt to sketch out the events of a campaign, of which the former part was spent in the attack or defence of fortresses and posts, is a task that would be attended with considerable difficulty to myself, and afford but little entertainment to you.

“The actions, or rather skirmishes that ensued, were equally indecisive; though, I believe, rather to the advantage

vantage of our enemies; and, I have reason to think, that had we not been joined by a large reinforcement of Europeans, the summer would have ended very little to the credit or satisfaction either of the French, or their Asiatic allies.

“ As we had acquired spirits from the assistance we had received, we ventured to attack the English in their intrenchments, and after an obstinate resistance on their part, for many of the country troops, their allies, fled at the first onset: we carried the post, and remained masters of the field. This being our first victory, I could not help observing the character of the different nations upon that occasion. With us, if there was any great joy, it was tempered with that decorum which generally marks our behaviour: but on the part of the French it was
far

far otherwise. I understood, from an officer that spoke both languages, that they congratulated each other in the most extravagant hyperboles: they laughed, they leaped, shouted and sung, as if performing the frantic dance of the Dervises: in short, it is impossible to say where their exultations would have ended, had not a period been put to them by the drum beating again to arms, upon a report, that the English, strongly reinforced, were returning to the charge. The Gallic troops, equally ready to fight as to dance, flew to their muskets; and although the report proved premature, they shewed, by their alacrity, it would not be easy to take them at a disadvantage.

“ A few days after, the rumour which I have just mentioned, was realized. The English, not only joined
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by a detachment of their own troops, but by the Nabob Sujah Abbas, advanced. At first they shewed a disposition to treat: the armies formed a square: the elephants, camels and baggage, were placed in the rear: superb tents were pitched in the center.

“ The chiefs, Indian and European, advanced from their different quarters, attended by numerous suites. The negotiations lasted for several days, and then were broken off, without coming to any agreement. We now prepared for an action, which soon commenced, and was infinitely more bloody and obstinate than any we had yet experienced. Three different days it was renewed: at last victory declared in our favour: but alas! it cost us dear, as our opponents, the English, fought like men that were resolved to conquer or die. On the last day, I particularly
remember

remember, that the officer who led the British grenadiers, withstood the shock of whole regiments of Sepoys, and other Indian troops; and though wounded, refused to yield to the superiority of numbers, until the French advanced to the place of action; to the commander of whom, he reluctantly resign'd his sword."

The similarity of circumstances between this event, and that she had before heard of Captain Egerton, struck Galatie, and she eagerly inquired of Hassan, if he knew the name of the officer? but of that he could not inform her. She then flew to Maria, who not understanding the language in which the soldier was about to relate his story, had, with the children of Norival, stroll'd into the garden. If she was surpris'd when Galatie took her arm, and hurried her to Hassan;

she was more so when, upon her shewing him the picture, which hung from the English lady's neck, he perfectly recollected the features. Her agitation while he contemplated it, which he did with emotion and reverence, was inexpressible. Bowing his head upon it, when he returned it, he said, "I now consider the English warrior as doubly unfortunate, in not only having his own captivity and wounds to lament, but his distance from a lady, who by the interest she seems to take in his fate, is, I have reason to believe, connected with him by the tenderest ties. Why should Hassan blush to acknowledge, that to the officer, of which this is the resemblance, he in the late battle owed his life. Being on the ground, deserted by my comrades, and on the point of falling a martyr to the fury of some of the Rasputs that fought on the British side; when their
spears

spears were uplifted, he called them off, saying, in Persian, "Soldiers! disgrace not your country, and mine, by warring upon a defenceless individual. We came here to attack or defend ourselves against armies: but the moment an enemy has fallen, the fury of the English subsides, and they hasten to succour the man; to embrace their fellow-creature." "When Hassan forgets, most brave and generous Briton, the sentiments with which thy example hath inspired him; when he no longer rejoices at an opportunity to repay the obligations he owes to thee; to thy friends or connexions; may he be spurn'd by all good men, and transformed to the vilest reptile that crawls upon the earth."

Joy flash'd from the eyes of Maria, when Galatie explain'd to her the sentiments of Hassan, who though he

understood some French, was not sufficiently master of that language, to continue his narration in it. He therefore informed the latter, that when the wounded captain was carried to the town of Saferon, he was among the number appointed to guard the prisoners. That owing to the skill of several French and English surgeons, many that were also wounded, recovered; and that the captain was so far amended, as to be able to quit his chamber; and by leaning upon the arm of a faithful domestic, who had surrendered himself as soon as he heard of his master's misfortune, to take the air in a large court.. That, being frequently upon guard, he was surprised at the vigilance of the servant, to keep back any news, or letters, that came from the remainder of the English army; but had reason, a few days after, to consider his caution as properly founded. By
means

means of some communications between the generals," he continued, "several prisoners were exchanged, and through that medium, the captain received a packet of letters, in the absence of Frederic. He had perused but a few lines of one, which he selected from the rest, before he gave a groan, and fell upon the floor. The surgeon, who happened to be near, with the domestics and foldiers of the garrison, rush'd into the room; after several applications, he recovered to a sense of his misery, and seemed, by his agitations, to be raving and lamenting, by turns, in the English language. The surgeon, when he had examined his wounds, said, "That his emotions had caused them to bleed afresh." Frederic arrived, and that trusty domestic used such means, as sooth'd his master into tolerable composure."

“At this period all the powers equally weary of the war, agreed upon a cessation of hostilities. The time to which the service of our troops was limited, being expired, we were discharged from our duty at the garrison. Before we marched homeward, I went, for the last time, to inquire after the health of the English warrior, as he was called among us, and heard from Frederic, that he was in some degree restored: at the same time he disclosed to me, that the late shock was owing to the information which the letters conveyed to him, that his lady, upon the news of his capture, had left Calcutta, and had not since been heard of; and as there was great reason to fear that she had been murdered by some of the straggling deserters and banditti, which were said to infest the country, though he had known of her absence for some time, he had carefully kept that circumstance

cumstance from his master, till that fatal day, when his leaving him had like to have been attended with such serious consequences. I have little more to add," continued Hassan, "as an account of our march to this country, it being unattended with any incidents worth relating, would, of consequence, afford no amusement to this company."

When he had ended, Galatie and Anime retired with Maria, to whom they explained, in the gentlest manner possible, what they had just heard from the soldier. Amidst the affliction which this relation excited, she saw a ray of consolation break upon her wo-begone mind, in the gratitude of Hassan. The daughters of Amurath leaving her with Lidia, returned to the company; who, after an evening spent in innocent hilarity, departed, at an

early hour, to their different habitations.

CHAP. VII.

THE company of Hassan became the greatest cordial to sooth the sorrows of Maria.

During the few weeks, in which the stormy season made it impossible to travel, he attended her constantly, and had, under the tuition of Galatie and Anime, attained sufficient of the French language, to hold a conversation upon common subjects. He informed her of every particular relative to the capture and situation of her husband ; and frequently

frequently repeated the vow he had made, to deliver her safe into his hands, if he was even obliged to take a journey to Calcutta for that purpose. In pursuance of this resolution, Maria furnished him with part of the money which she had recovered from the Arabian; and as it was agreed on by every one, that the Indian mode of travelling was, for ladies, far more convenient than the Persian, he engaged to purchase a carriage with oxen, for her and her attendant, as also camels to convey their baggage. Through his influence, a number of his disbanded fellow soldiers offered themselves as a guard, they brought their horses, tents, &c. Manaries were engaged to conduct the caravan; and as soon as the roads were in proper condition, they prepared to set out.

Strong as were the impulses of the connubial and parental passions in the bosom of Maria, her gratitude to Selim and Rustan, respect for Amurath, and affection for his lovely daughters, rendered their parting a very solemn one. She, addressing them generally, said, "The humanity, hospitality, and politeness for which, from the earliest ages, the Persians have been remarkable, were never more conspicuous, never more readily exerted, or more strongly felt, than in the case of the object before you. Ingratitude is not a vice inherent to British bosoms! How then shall I reflect upon the favours I have received, with composure, when absence places them in a more enlarged point of view, and distance prevents that acknowledgment, which not to be able to return, is the greatest burden to generous minds?" When she embraced Galatie and Anime, she said,

said, " Adieu, lovely and beloved sisters of my heart: the obligations that I owe to your sensibility and tenderness, which have, in a great degree, sooth'd my sorrows, and blunted the poignancy of that anguish which I have long endured, will never be erased from my memory; and, though perhaps destiny may ordain that a hemisphere shall divide us, still, let me indulge the hope, that that fine spun filament, which unites the souls of individuals, however distant their situations may be, will cause us to remember and love each other, to the remotest period of our existence."

The daughters of Amurath, equally attached to the lovely Briton, mingled tears with their embraces, and separation was protracted to a late hour.

The inflexible Zamaspes would not accept of the smallest gratification. "You have," said he, "complimented me upon practising the virtue of hospitality: of your approbation I am proud: do not therefore suffer me to degrade myself in the eyes of my friends, and sink in my own opinion, by taking a reward for doing that, which I have ever considered as my first duty."

To Norival's children, her liberality would have known no bounds, had it not been restrained by their mother. When the caravan set out, Rustan and a few friends accompanied them, purposing to take their leave at the town which was to be the extent of that day's journey; while Galatie, Anime, and the rest, upon whom the departure of Maria had cast a gloom, retired into the interior part of the temple.

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In solitary walks beneath its lofty arches, or around its environs, the disconsolate Amurath whil'd away his time, waiting for the return of the Dervise, who, though particularly charged with the affairs of Selim, had nevertheless undertaken to procure, by means of his extensive connexions, all possible information respecting the charges which Omar and Asgar had brought against him. He knew the power and weight of those two Omrahs at the Persian court, and the very little chance an individual, unsupported, had of obtaining justice, or indeed a hearing; he therefore again lamented the storm which drove him back to the Persian coast, and the shipwreck of the greatest part of his fortune. Taking a retrospective view of his life, he recalled to his mind the infancy of his children; the former prosperous situation of his affairs, and the many
happy

happy years he had spent with his beloved Erminia, whose disappearance was a mystery he could by no means penetrate. In this desponding state, his thoughts turned upon the venerable Ismael; in recollecting his precepts, and resolving to rely upon Providence for the guidance of his future destiny, he found comfort; his mind assumed more composure, and turning to retrace his steps to the cottage of Zamaspes, he beheld the Dervise standing before him.

Joy, for a moment, took possession of his features; but it vanished upon his inquiries into the success of his application, as the sage informed him, "he had news to communicate, which was likely to afford but little consolation either to him or Selim: but," continued he, "this is not a time, wearied as I am by a long journey, to enter into particulars;

particulars ; let us retire and seek our friends, whom I have not yet seen : in the morning I will inform you of the result of my expedition, and we will then determine what measures are to be taken to insure your future safety."

CHAP. VIII.

IN the anxiety of mind which the insinuations of the Dervise had occasioned to Amurath, Selim, and his friends, the night wore slowly away. Soon after sun rise they assembled, impatient to hear what intelligence he had to communicate. They seated themselves around him, and he began. " When I left the camp of Selim, I proceeded to a convent of Dervises in

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the neighbourhood, and without mentioning to them the nature of my business, I generally informed them that I was under the necessity of travelling to Ispahan, and engaged two of my brethren to join me in the expedition. We set out a few days after, and by slow journeys were approaching the capital, when passing through a village, or rather a place that had been a village, but from which we conjectured, that most of the inhabitants had been driven, for we observed, from the vestiges, that their houses and cottages had been destroyed, and that every part around seemed delapidated, and in ruins.

“ As I stood in the court of a half demolished caravanfary, upon the edge of a broken fountain, over which reclined a withered palm ; making observations to my companions upon the
scene

scene around us, we were accosted by a venerable old man, whose head was enclosed in a large turban; he wore a beard, which shading his cheeks, and falling below his girdle, left little of his countenance to be discerned but his nose and eyes; the latter beamed with fire and animation, uncommon at his apparent time of life. Observing that we were pointing to the ruins of a bath, he said, "The scene of desolation before you, is but a faint, indeed a very faint picture of the devastation and declension that has pervaded the Persian empire. This village, inconsiderable as it may now seem, hath been honoured and distinguished, in former times, by the residence of Emperors. If you cast your eyes this way, and look to where that majestic clump of palms forms a principal object on the fore-ground of the scene, you behold the remains of the magnificent

ficient palace of Sha Sefi. In this point of view, what a sublime landscape doth it present to the sight. The light breaking through some of the immense arches and windows, while others discover the elevated and various coloured trees in the wood behind, which massing together, serve as a soft and beautiful back-ground, that contributes to render the white marble domes and columns more conspicuous. How does the contemplation of objects like these, repel the passions, and sooth the spirit into that state of calmness and repose, so favourable both to health and virtue? The very air around, scarcely waving the foliage, or driving the fleecy clouds across the azure tinted zenith, seems to breathe nothing but harmony and peace. In this disposition of mind, how irksome is the recollection, that the palace before us once contained one of the scourges of the

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the human race, a tyrant and a murderer: one who confined not his cruelty to his own family, or to the capital; but extended his crimes over his whole dominions, and disgraced the Persian name in every quarter of the globe. At last he fell a sacrifice to his own enormities; and although his life was a scandal, perhaps his death was a lesson to mankind, as it served to shew, that the Divine bolt, suspended for a time, was only reserved to fall with double force, and make the greatest monster of his own, the most striking example to future ages."

While the old man continued this discourse, we had walked some way. He stopt at a door, where he made a signal, and it was instantly opened by a black slave; he then invited us to follow him in. "Perhaps," said he, "you will honour my house so far,
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as to make it your caravanfary, at least for this night, or as much longer as may be agreeable to you: I am the more induced to urge my request, as you will find but little accommodation in the village.”—“ We entered a spacious and elegant garden, which thro’ walks, bounded by hedges and espaliers in some parts, in others shaded by lofty trees, led to a house, the neatness of whose structure, and the order that seemed to reign in every part, formed a contrast to the delapidated mansions of the place we had left, that could not escape observation.

“ Our host led us into a large hall, and after ordering water, left us while we performed our ablutions. An interior chamber was prepared for our reception, where an elegant collation was set out, and we were, with the utmost hospitality, invited to take our
seats

seats at the table. During our meal, we were charmed by the accents of a female voice, whose dulcet melody accompanied by an instrument, resounded from the next apartment, separated only by a double chintz partition. Most enchantingly did the invisible musician execute a song, the purport of which was, How very inferior the attractions of power, and even royalty, were to love; and how trifling the pleasure that could be found in courts and palaces, compared to that which two faithful hearts feel in seclusion from the world, and living only for each other.

“ When the song ceased, I could hear whispers, which made me imagine that we were observed; I therefore forbore saying more to our ancient host, than that I was happy to find he had, under his roof, a fair philosopher.

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He was silent at the hint I gave him, for some minutes, and as our meal was done, with a view, as I thought, to turn the discourse, he inquired to what part of Persia we were travelling? and what motive could induce us to pursue a track so remote from the common road? This introduced my history, in which, when I mentioned having been in the household of Kouli Negif, who you know is the father of Haly, he gave a start, and then seemed lost in thought; but when, in pursuing my tale, I adverted to the desertion of the latter, and the flight of Semira, the daughter of the Sophi, a shriek issued from the interior chamber, and something seemed to fall to the ground. The old man rose in the most frantic trepidation, and tearing down part of the chintz partition; by his exertions his turban and beard fell off; and when we followed to see what could have caused

caused such emotions in him, we discovered, upon a sofa, one of the loveliest female forms I had ever beheld, supported by Haly."—"Haly," said Selim, with surprise, "The individual Haly," answered the Dervise, "whom in his infancy I have so often carried in these arms.

"Though women slaves, and other domestics, were assembled around, the attention of Haly was so entirely absorb'd in the indisposition of the lady, that it was not till she was perfectly recovered, that he took the least notice of any other object. When he had led her to her chamber, he returned to us, and said, "Fazel, the years that have passed, and the holy dress you have assumed, had entirely wiped every trace of the recollection of your person from my mind. To an accident you owe this encounter with a man, who, loath
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to leave Persia, has, for many months, in the disguise you have seen, resided in this village. That residence must now be abandoned; for though I know your prudence, and trust the regard you formerly professed for me, will hinder you from making an ill use of this discovery; nor have I less reliance upon your influence with your companions; yet, so much at present depends upon my concealment, that we must meet no more. Commend me to the generous Selim, and inform him, that I hope it will one day be the lot of Haly, to clear his fame, and re-establish his fortune. Command this house, during the time you chuse to stay, but for the master of it, he is now forced, by circumstances, to bid you a long, perhaps a last adieu. At these words he left the room, followed by all the slaves, except the black, whom we

had

had at first seen, who attended to shew us to our chambers.

“ As we were fatigued with the journey of the preceding day, the sun had risen some hours before we awoke. When we entered the hall, we found a table spread with fruit, and the black attending. We inquired for his master, but were informed that he had departed at the first dawn of the morning. With respect to what little he knew of his affairs, he had been ordered to observe a profound secrecy. We soon after resumed our journey, and in twenty days arrived at Ispahan.”

“ Then you have not heard any more of Haly ?” said Selim.”—“ His name was scarce mentioned at the capital, except by his father,” replied the Dervise. “ The seduction and elopement of the Princess, has been,

and is, entirely imputed to you. His father, indeed, sighed, when he recounted that event; and 'though he said little, I have reason to think that he suspected his son to be more concerned in it than he chose to acknowledge. When I had paid my respects to the superior of the Grand Convent of Dervises, to whom I related your story, and endeavoured, but without effect, to engage in your interest, I waited on Mirza Haddi, your father. The grief he had suffered for your absence; the mortification he had endured, from your manner of quitting the army, and escaping from the custody of the Grand Vizier, had made a strong impression upon his mind, and which had lately sunk the deeper, from his having been forbid the court, and ordered to reside at his castle of Gelligan, where I found him, upon a report, that you was still lurking

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ing in the Persian dominions. When the sorrow of Mirza would permit him to reason upon this matter, we endeavoured to trace the report to its source, and found it arose from Omar and Asgar, who had both been at court during your absence."

The mention of the names of the enemies of Amurath, naturally led him to inquire what intelligence he had collected respecting his affairs? to which the Dervise replied, "Very little, though he had made an acquaintance with the Deroga, in order to obtain information: all he could learn was, that the Omrahs had brought great and heavy charges against a merchant named Amurath, and that proclamations had been issued for apprehending him; that the place of his residence was discovered, and in a few

days it was expected stronger measures would be taken."

This news threw Galatie, Anime, and their father, into the greatest consternation.

The Dervise attempted to sooth their grief, and Selim, Rustan, and their few friends, promised to withdraw to a place of greater safety. "Not," said Selim, "that we have any great cause to doubt the security of this temple; for as they suspect our abode to be in some of the caverns at the foot of Caucasus, we have little reason to suppose they will search for us nearer the capital. They will rather imagine, upon finding our abandoned camp, that we have retreated entirely out of the Persian dominions."

Amurath

Amurath and the ladies, being a little revived by these assurances, the Dervise continued addressing himself to Selim.

“ Your father had, in the palace of the Sophi, an intimate friend, the Mehter: to him he had frequently disclosed the sorrow your absence gave him. To him he had often represented his opinion of the part Haly had taken in the elopement of the princess, and urged him to suggest it when opportunity offered, to the Monarch: but as it was an affair of much delicacy, though he frequently spoke to him, he was fearful, if he mentioned it, of rousing his resentment against himself. The matter, therefore, had lain dormant for some time: indeed, until the appearance of Omar and Asgar at court: and their complaints against you awakened the Monarch’s fury; so that

when he was, one evening, expressing himself in strong terms upon your desertion: in that evil hour, the Mehter, forgetting his former prudent conduct, with some asperity against the chiefs, undertook your defence, in which he set your conduct in a favourable point of view, and attributed to Haly the seduction of the Princess. The Sophi astonished at the temerity of his slave, ordered him into immediate custody, and as he has not since been heard of, it is supposed, by those that think most favourably of his fate, that he is closely confined."

Selim, struck by this recital, lamented, in the destiny of the Mehter, the misfortunes attendant upon a generosity congenial to his own.

"Your father," continued the Dervise, "upon this event, alarmed for
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the consequences of the Monarch's fury, which threaten your safety, and life, in which his will also be involved, desires you will, for the present, quit the Persian dominions, for which purpose he has sent you this packet, containing his further instructions, and a large sum in jewels and money. In the mean time he will endeavour to discover, and unfold the conduct of Haly; and should any fortunate turn of affairs restore you to your friends, he has no doubt, but that the love of the foldiers, and your general good conduct, will reinstate you in that situation, from which a series of sinister events have driven you."

The Dervise having concluded the account of his journey, though it had been very little to the satisfaction of either Amurath or Selim, he received their thanks for his exertions in their

G 4 favour.

favour. The hearts of Galatie and Anime palpitated, when the latter retired with Rustan, to examine the contents of the packet which he had received from his father.

Young, artless, amiable, and possessed of the greatest sensibility, the good opinion which, upon their first acquaintance, they had formed of the two chiefs, joined to gratitude for the services which they had rendered them, and the opportunities their intimacy gave to plead the cause of love, had inspired the daughters of Amurath with a passion, ardent as their own. It was therefore, with great emotion, they heard the disagreeable news from the capital, and with still greater, that they saw the brows of their lovers clouded with sorrow. Galatie, whose serious turn of mind, and exquisite feelings, too frequently induced her to
place

place common occurrences in a melancholy point of view, had often repined at the desultory life they had lately endured : she saw, every hour, reason to regret the storm that forced them back upon their native coast : yet could she regret that circumstance, as to it she was indebted for the knowledge of Selim ?

If he would leave the vain pursuit of riches and honours : if he would leave his country to repent its ingratitude to the hero who had protected it : his fame to the elucidation of time ; seek a remote cottage, and descend into a humbler sphere of life, it would compleat her happiness.

“ Look,” said she to Anime, “ at the worthy people, whose lowly dwellings are sheltered by the magnificent roof of this temple : look on the vene-

rable Zamaspes and his family, how smoothly flows the current of their days, undisturbed by the gales of hope and fear, which continue to blow from contrary points, but which in vain assail them, unruffled by the storms of ambition or the contention of passions, which form the elements of life. In such a retirement, with the constancy of Selim, and the safety of Amurath insured, the happiness of Galatie would be complet."

Although the disposition of Anime was more sanguine, and she was ready to catch at every gleam of bliss, tho' ever so transient, and enjoyed that sun-shine of the soul, which played in smiles and dimples upon her lovely features; yet, in the present hour, the affection she bore to Galatie; her concern for the fate of Selim, in which that of Rustan seemed to be, in some degree involved;

involved; and more than all, the strong impression of grief which marked the deportment of Amurath, awakened the whole of her sensibility. She, although equally alarmed at their situation, endeavoured to calm the fears of her sister; and as she proceeded, the strength and vigour of her mind rose superior to the calamity of the time; and Amurath having joined them, she so well employed the reasoning and soothing faculties which she possessed, that at the return of Selim, Rustan, and the Dervise, both her father and sister seemed more composed.

Perhaps, that it continued, was to be attributed to the tranquillity that seemed to reign in the countenances of the chiefs.

Selim and Rustan placed themselves by the side of the ladies, and took a

hand of each : when the former looking at Galatie with the utmost tenderness, led her to her father, and said, " While Selim considered himself as having any hopes of exalting the object of his adoration, to a rank which she is so well qualified to adorn, he forbore directly to mention his passion to Amurath; thinking that title and fortune would render him, in a greater degree, worthy of his daughter, that illusion is now over." " This parental mandate commands me to banish myself from Persia. Accustomed to obey, I mean, in a short time, to leave my native country for ever; but, can the banished Selim, the man who is suffering under a load of obloquy, ask of Amurath, his lovely daughter? Yes! with the means of competence, though not of affluence, I feel, so much is my happiness connected with the idea of calling Galatie mine, that
if

if she has no objection to the sharing my humble fortunes, I have the temerity to make that demand."

"And I," said Rustan, "adoring the lovely Anime, with as fervent, as lively a passion, though unable in such elegant terms to express it, ask the same gift from the hand of her father. Let us join our fortunes, our interests, our happiness, and leaving these inhospitable regions, where merit and virtue stand as marks for the shafts of malice, fly to some distant clime, to one on which the sun of liberty sheds its influence, and enjoy the little that remains, undisturbed either by our own pursuit of the phantoms of ambition, or the murmurs of slander with which others may follow us."

"Gladly," said Amurath, "shall I leave Persia, and still more gladly resign

sign my daughters to protectors, who seem so worthy of them. My sons," he continued, taking their hands, "listen to what I have now to offer, it being of the greatest importance."

At this instant Zamaspes entered, in the utmost trepidation, and informed them, that the Temple was surrounded by the Persian army.

It is not in the power of pen to describe the feelings of the company, particularly those of the lovers, fallen, as they were, from the height of bliss, to the lowest abyss of despair.

They were immediately separated: Galatie and Anime, with a female slave that attended them, were conducted to their apartments for the night. Amurath, Selim, Rustan, and the rest, were put under a strong guard; and the
next

next morning, preparations having been previously made, and a close carriage provided for the ladies, amidst the cries and tears of Zamaspes, Norival, and the cottagers, they began their march for Ispahan.

The Dervise had been taken into custody as he was endeavouring to escape, and it was a matter of surprise to the officers, in the morning when they mustered their prisoners, that he was no where to be found. The avenues and recesses of the temple, and even the cottages, were explored in vain. Zamaspes and the rest were threatened with torture, if they concealed him. The old man cleared himself, by shewing the impossibility that he could have any knowledge of his escape, which he more justly attributed to the influence which the sanctity of his character might have

have upon the soldiers. Though the chief had his doubts respecting this matter, as he had no particular orders with regard to the Dervise, he seemingly acquiesced with what Zamaspes said, resolving to keep a stricter guard upon his other prisoners.

The march of the army was slow; they frequently halted at large towns and cities which lay in their way: when that was the case, the ladies and their attendants were lodged in some of the houses; as were also the male prisoners, where they could be properly guarded.

In crossing the plains and deserts, every night they encamped, and the daughters of Amurath, though treated with the greatest respect, could find no opportunity to have the least communication either with their lovers, or
their.

their father. In the anxiety of the present moment, and dread of the future, the spirits of the lovely Galatie sunk; nor could the soothing or reasoning of Anime, who endeavoured to collect all her fortitude to support her sister, avail; for as every turn of the wheel seemed to bring them nearer to their fate, she at last gave way to infective melancholy, and in silence and tears they journeyed on.

CHAP. VII.

THE spring, the nearer they approached to the capital, had made the greater progress. Every day they seemed to leave winter behind them,
and

and discover the vegetable, animal, and insect creation, with a renewed existence blooming in the gardens, gamboling in the fields, or fluttering in the air. The barren mountains, and sandy plains, over which lay their course, were agreeably relieved by the cultivated vales and luxuriant plantations in other parts. Every hour the dazzling whiteness of the snow upon the hills, smote by the solar beam, diminished, and was succeeded by a variety of tints, green, brown, purple and red, according to the nature of the soil. The beautifully irregular outline of the country, which melted into a soft silvery sky upon the horizon, and almost faded away, except where the rising sun behind the mountains discovered their majestic forms, and illuminated to brilliancy the clouds that floated upon the deep blue of the zenith. The melody of the birds
hailing.

hailing the new-born year; the vivid and smiling appearance of nature, had infused spirits into all around, except the prisoners: they, though travelling at a time, and through a country, likely to engage the attention, and sooth the mind, were far from feeling that harmony within, which these objects seemed calculated to inspire. Kept at a distance from each other, and not suffered to have the least communication, Amurath, Selim, and Rustan, could only reflect upon their fate in sorrow and silence. But although they had reason to dread the reception that might be prepared for them at Ispahan, a more immediate cause of grief rankled in the breasts both of the father and the lovers. They were totally ignorant of the manner in which Galatie and Anime were to be disposed of. Whatever accusations might be brought against themselves, of the innocence of
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the daughters of Amurath, there could be no doubt; and if Omar and Asgar wished to gratify their appetite or revenge, it seemed to them a very absurd method they had taken; as being put, by their captivity, under the protection of the Persian guards, they knew, such was the strictness of the law with respect to females, that the lives of the officers must be answerable for their honour. They therefore wished to know of the Chiefs or soldiers, whether the ladies continued in their custody; but though they often made application for that purpose, they could not receive any satisfactory answer. Like the objects of their care, they gave themselves up to despondence; travelled on, regardless of the scenes around them, and when in sight of Ispahan, considered it as a place where they should know the worst; where suspense would cease, and, in that respect,

spect, when they entered their separate prisons, found them, in some degree, divested of their terrors.

Galatie and her sister were placed in the house of one of the officers of the court, where every attention was paid them that they could have expected. Leaving them, therefore, waiting with some small degree of composure, the event of the prosecution, which they understood had commenced against their father, let us return to the chiefs, Omar and Asgar, as it may be necessary slightly to consider their proceedings.

When the Merchant, Amurath, upon the disappearance of his wife, and the decline of his business, fled from Ormus, the Chiefs, who divided the government of the province, and who, from accidentally seeing Galatie and
Anir:e

Anime in the garden of their villa, were inflamed with a most violent passion, which was increased by the step their father had taken, insomuch that they resolved to follow them. It has been already said, that Amurath having lived much among the Europeans, had adopted many of their customs, and in particular, had laid aside a great part of the jealousy with which the Persians immure their females, in his conduct with respect to his wife and daughters. He had frequently suffered the latter, under the guidance of their mother, to receive, and return the visits of the English and Dutch families, in the vicinity. The Omrahs, observing the freedom they were allowed, so unusual, and the objects so lovely, resolved to avail themselves of the opportunities that were given, for an introduction; but the reception they met with from the father, to whom

whom their characters were well known, and the disgust with which the young ladies listened to their addresses, the tendency of which they rightly judged, was only to induce them to increase the number of slaves, with which their Harams were annually furnished, made them resolve to seize, by force, what they saw no likelihood of obtaining by entreaty. As they had the command of the province, there is little doubt, notwithstanding their first failure, but that this design would have been successfully executed, had not Amurath withdrawn in the manner that has been related.

When the Chiefs found that their destined prey had escaped, their rage was unbounded: accustomed to the utmost latitude of obedience, from their dependants, in the gratification of their appetites, they could ill brook

the disappointment of a moment; they therefore resolved to follow the fugitives. For this purpose, a vessel was immediately prepared, and they pursued them to the mouth of the river, where the bark which contained Amurath, and his daughters, was unfortunately shipwreck'd.

They were again condemned to suffer disappointment on the plains, near the foot of Caucasus, by means of the rescue so opportunely conducted by Rustan, and had not only the disgrace of being obliged to recede with the prize in view, but the wound of Omar to lament. Unfortunate as they deemed those events, they only served to inflame their passions to a higher pitch. They landed at the first Persian port, and having learned part of the history of Selim, Omar, as soon as his health would permit him to travel, set out
for

for Ispahan, to inform the Vizier of his situation; while Asgar increasing his force with a band of Persian and Tartarian free-booters, took his rout to that part of the country, where the camp of Bassa was situated. In his way he fell in with the troop of the Arabian captain, whom he had formerly known, and, finding him a proper person, intrusted him with the enterprize, in which, after he had captured the English lady, he was taken prisoner, and conducted to the camp.

Though Asgar lamented this at first as a misfortune, the Arabian gave it another appearance, and by means of the Afghlan, communicated a scheme of reprisal, which was afterwards executed in part, and ended in the capture of Anime, though it was to have been extended to that of all the ladies. The failure of the expedition; the re-

covery of Anime; the death of the Arabian, and the wound of Asgar, were communicated to Omar, and, through his medium, to the Vizier. Spies were set to watch the motions of Amurath, Selim, and their party, and a plan laid, which, soon after the Dervise had unsuccessfully endeavoured to interest some of the Persian nobility in their favour, was carried into effect, and was the means of their being surprised and conducted to prison, in the manner that has been related.

CHAP. VIII.

DURING the course of the transactions which have been the subjects of several preceding chapters, Ismael,
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the Hermit, continued in his solitary abode upon the mountain. The winter, with despotic sway, extended its dominion around. The snow had descended upon its elevated brow, and the clouds hung upon its natural turrets and battlements. Sometimes in the middle of the day, a faint gleam of the sun, for a short period, broke through the thick and humid atmosphere, and gave a transient glow to the grey tinted sky; but soon it faded away, and a dark curtain seemed to envelope the barren rocks, the leafless trees, and all the variety of tremendous objects which surrounded him.

In this hour of leisure, he recollected the many pleasant days which he had spent with Amurath and his family: and when he reflected upon the dreariness of his situation: the total seclusion from mankind in which he now lived;

the taste of happiness he had enjoyed in the company of his relatives, strongly recurred to his mind, and he sighed for society.

Let us view the inside of his cavern: behold him reclined upon a couch, formed by nature, and covered with rushes. Near, on a large stone, stood a lamp, whose feeble rays just served to shew the rocky wall, in some places shining with crystalline excrescences; in others hung with dried moss. A book lay on one side of him, and on the other, a few embers, rak'd into an aperture, glow'd with a smoulder'd flame, whose smoaky volumes only half escap'd through a chasm, the rest nearly clouded the chests, mats, and effects which furnished the interior part; where a small rill of water, slowly dropping from the roof, with a constant and melancholy sound,

found, increased the solemnity of the hour.

“ Here,” said Ismael, shaking an hour glass, “ will soon end the days of the most inconsiderate, and inconsiderable of all human beings. Here I shall soon resign my breath, alone and unattended, and finish my course by a death, as little noticed by the world, as my life has been. While reason yet holds its seat : while memory has yet the power to retrace the objects and circumstances that have passed before it, let me endeavour to recollect, in what manner I have answered the end for which I was created. Was man formed with thinking, with reasoning faculties, to begin his race of life, with the pursuit of frivolous or criminal pleasures ? to end the day of folly with the night of profligacy and dissipation ? certainly not. When more advanced

in years ; when the ebullition of youthful passion had, in some degree, ceased: was he created to grasp at riches, honours, power; to disperse the reality of independance in pursuit of the phantoms of promises and patronage? certainly man was not created for these purposes. Yet however foolish or criminal my former pursuits: was it not cowardly totally to abandon my post? with the experience I had gained, ought I not rather to have continued in society, either as a warning, or an example to others? When a man, disgusted with the world, retires, is not pride, in a considerable degree, the motive? The luminary of his own hemisphere, he thinks, that when he withdraws his rays, the human race left in shade, will bewail, and perhaps endeavour to recal him. Alas! does not every days experience convince us, that the place of even the greatest genius,

genius, is speedily supplied; the impression made upon the minds of men, by the hero, statesman, or philosopher, passes away, like that of a stone drop'd into a river: his fame is dispers'd for a short time, till the circles become fainter and fainter; at last the waters of oblivion close over his head, and he is heard of no more. Such, such—"

As he was continuing his soliloquy, the wind arose; a hollow noise resounded through the caverns: the mountain seemed shaken to its foundation: Ismael started, and the genius of Caucasus appeared.

"When will man," said he, in a voice which struck the Hermit with awe, "be satisfied with his situation? When will mortals cease repining at their lot? and while they condemn the passing hour, imagine happiness resides

in places far remote from those where Providence has disposed of them. He that is immers'd in business, sighs for solitude, and you are a proof, that it is in the power of casualty, of chance, to overturn the axioms which a long seclusion from mankind ought to have rooted in your mind; to erase a resolution which has been persisted in for so long a period, and create, in the decline of your life, a wish to re-enter that world, from which you have so long suffered a voluntary banishment. The concern you feel for the fate of Amurath and his children: the pleasure you found in their society; you flatter yourself is your motive. Be it so. If the Omnipotent hath planted such affections in your bosom: if he has rendered you disgusted with your situation, it is perhaps for purposes, which it would be presumptuous in us to endeavour to fathom: go, therefore:

fore: seek your relatives: abandon these rocks and deserts, and mingle again with mankind. Though my protection extends no further than to the basis of this mountain, you will not be forsaken; the guardian angels of the just will hover around, and guide your footsteps, while they tread the paths of virtue, and are directed to innocent and laudable pursuits."

The Genius disappeared: total darkness succeeded, and Ismael, almost petrified with fear, passed the long and silent hours of the night, in contemplation upon what he had heard, and in debates with himself, whether he should endeavour to seek his kinsman, and spend the remainder of his days in the bosom of his family, or pass them in the solitude he had chosen. Though far advanced in years, such had, for a long series, been his tempe-

rate and abstemious life, that they had not made any great inroad upon his constitution: he had still strength, as he thought, equal to the task of descending through the caverns: when in the level country, he was sure of assistance. The hope of meeting with that support, which the monitor within informed him his age would one day want, confirmed him in the resolution he had adopted, and as soon as the morning dawned, he walked forth. The region around appeared doubly dreary, from the hurricane of the night; every object seemed to strengthen his determination, when looking with a wishful eye at the plains beneath him, he, in a more composed state of mind, retired to his cavern, in order to prepare for his journey.

PART THE FIFTH

CHAP. IX.

As many arrows, loosed several ways,
Come to one mark ; as many ways meet in one town ;
As many fresh streams join in one salt sea ;
As many lines close in the dial's centre ;
So may a hundred actions once a foot,
End in one purpose.

WITH his staff in his hand, and
a wallet upon his back, containing a
few necessaries, the sage Ismael began
his journey through the caverns. With
considerable fatigue he descended ; so

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that when he arrived on the road leading to Tauris, he was nearly spent with the toil he had undergone. The view of a few houses, impressed upon his mind the most agreeable sensations. "Here," he cried, with alacrity, "I shall find instant relief: here the inhabitants will vie with each other, in their offers of service. As I am newly come into the world, I will try the hospitality of the humblest." He accordingly knocked at the door of a cottage, situated in the midst of a small garden, and sheltered by trees; the little enclosure around, seemed to convey to the mind an idea of competence and comfort.

The door was opened by a sturdy peasant, with a spade in his hand, who, looking sternly at the traveller, demanded his business. "I want," said Ismael, "food and repose, and have come to your door, in preference to
that

that of many others, thinking, from the plenty and quiet that seems to reign about you, that here I shall be the most likely to obtain them." — "As, by your appearance, you don't seem to be in a situation to pay for what are esteemed the greatest blessings of life," returned the peasant, "I would rather you had called at any other house. There are several opulent families in the village, to whom your visit will undoubtedly be welcome; here, not having any superfluity, whatever is given towards the support of your age, must be taken from infants, who have a much better claim to it. In the two largest houses, live the Moullah and the Cadi; by either of those you will unquestionably be received with pleasure." Saying this, he shut the door with some violence, leaving Ismael struck with mute astonishment, to find that

that inhospitality resided in any part of the world, and especially in Persia.

Certain of a kind reception, he knocked boldly at the door of the Mahometan Doctor. With great ceremony he was introduced through a garden chamber, into a large library, where he was sitting. The Hermit explained the cause of his visit. The Moullah asked him questions respecting his religion; and turning to the Alcoran, desired his opinion of a particular passage, which not coinciding with that of the doctor, he demanded of him, whether he belonged to the sect of the Chiaïs, or the Sounis? "To neither," replied Ismael; the Being whom I reverence, is no distinguisher of sects: the adoration which is paid to him must spring from the heart, as I firmly believe he will place little value upon that learning, which

which is unaccompanied by piety : but this is no time for a discussion of these matters ; you see before you a distressed and aged traveller, and such, the book which you have in your hand, will tell you, are always entitled to relief."

" I rather see one, who reveres the memory of Hosen and Heuffin," said the Moullah, " and him, my conscience tells me, should be extirpated from the face of the earth ; therefore, thou vile Chiaïs, depart, and no longer contaminate the purity of my dwelling."

When Ismael left the house, he sighed, to think that men of narrow minds, still continued to make a difference of opinion on speculative and immaterial points ; a pretence to harden their hearts against that benevolence which he hoped had, during his seclusion, diffus'd itself over the whole country.

To

To the Cadi, he next applied; that officer was particular in his inquiries, respecting his former habits of life. He even questioned his right to have resided on the mountain, for such a length of time; and doubted, whether he was not liable to be called upon by the collectors of the Sophi, for his share of contribution to the public revenue. To his request for food and lodging, he replied, "that as he had not asserted that he belonged to any of the Mendicant orders, he, as a professor of the law, could not relieve him, it being diametrically opposite to the statute for the establishment of public caravanfaries, as well as to the command of Sha Abass, who set apart funds for their support, with a view to take off from individuals, the necessity of maintaining casual wanderers."

"In

“ In that case,” said Ismael, “ if a traveller happens to arrive, quite spent, at a village like this, which is not happy enough to possess a caravansary, must he perish from the inhumanity of his fellow creatures ?”

“ By no means,” replied the Cadi, “ there are, in every place, persons, whose pride it is to administer to the wants of those, whom you call their fellow-creatures ; and perhaps their conduct, though not strictly legal, is not totally reprehensible. To such you must apply, as it would ill become a man, whose employment and duty it is to enforce obedience to the laws, to be in the smallest degree guilty of their violation.”

Shock'd at the inhumanity of the Cadi, the sorrowful Ismael, though scarce able to support himself, wander-
ed

ed through the village; at the extremity of which, into a small house which stood entirely sequestered from the rest, he was invited, by an old woman; who observing that he was drooping with fatigue, led him to a couch; gave him water to wash, and then placed refreshments before him. When he had in some degree recovered, she shewed him to a plain, but neat chamber, where, after he had reflected upon the transactions of the day, and sighed over the inhumanity of part of the human species, he sunk into repose.

For several days, his benevolent hostess, detained the sage Ismael. He observed, by her dialect, that she was not a native of Persia; and in the course of their conversation, inquired from what place she came. She replied, “that she was banished from that part of the empire of the Great Mogul,

Mogul, which joins the dominions of the Sophi." The Hermit expressing some surprise at her saying that she was banished, she gave him the outline of her story, in the following words.

"My name is Saheb, Mondas Barek; my husband died within the first twelve-month after our marriage: as he left no child by me, though I had been his greatest favourite, it was generally imagined that I should mount the funeral pile with joy, and expire in the flames which consumed his body. So thoroughly were some of his relations convinced that such was my intention, that, without mentioning the matter to me, they made application to the governor of the place: but he being a Mahometan, and willing to discourage a practise, which he deemed equally useless and barbarous, desired to have some conversation with me upon the subject.

subject. It was then, with grief and astonishment, I first learned the officiousness of the family of Mondas Barek. He was pleased to find that I as heartily condemned the custom as himself, and that I had formed a resolution never to become a sacrifice to the manes of my husband. The friends of the deceased, who thought his memory treated with disrespect, in my refusal, were so enraged, that it required all the influence of the governor to protect me; and, notwithstanding his countenance, I was treated as an alien, an outcast from society. A short time after, when he was recalled to court, they let loose their whole malignity against me. The governor who succeeded, was a Gentoo, of the same cast as my late husband; therefore, entering warmly into the resentment of his relations, few words were necessary to stimulate him to procure my banishment from Indostan.

Indoſtan. Collecting my jewels, and what little fortune I had, I ſet out, and arriving in Perſia, fixed my habitation in this place, where I have remained unmoleſted for near forty years. It has ever been my cuſtom to obſerve ſtrictly the dictates of our religion; among which, benevolence and hoſpitality I have always conſidered as the principal; the traveller, the orphan, and the friendleſs, are certain of finding an aſylum in the dwelling of Saheb."

" May the dwelling of Saheb," ſaid the Hermit, " ſtill remain the manſion of peace ! may the benevolent inhabitant, whoſe enlarged mind, and feeling heart, do ſo much honour to her ſex, and to human nature, long continue ; by her exertions in favour of the diſtreſſed, at once a reproach and example to the inhabitants of this village, the hardneſs of whoſe hearts almoſt

most led me to believe, that the little virtue I left in the world, when I retired to solitude, was extinct. Thank heaven that it still remains on earth, and that pity, compassion, and benevolence, still keep their throne, where they were ought to be found in the bosoms of the softer sex."

He then briefly related the slender records of his own life; and just as he began the history of Amurath, a Dervise entered; he would have stop'd, but induced by the entreaties of Saheb, who introduced the stranger to him, he continued the story. The Dervise appeared young, to have assumed the habit of that order; he asked many questions relative to the situation of Amurath and his daughters, and seemed deeply interested in, and attentive to their story. He also inquired after Omar and Asgar: and understanding that

that the Hermit was travelling in search of the objects of their persecution, offered to accompany him. For this purpose they took advantage of a caravan which soon after arrived at the village; and taking leave of the benevolent Saheb, with gratitude and affection, they set out, towards the temple which contained the cottage of Zamaspes, where, they understood from a camel driver, who had been employed in conveying them, that Amurath and his company at present sheltered themselves.

CHAP. X.

CREAT was the disappointment of Ismael, upon his arrival at the cottage of the Temple, when he heard of the capture of Amurath, and the whole party : but, whatever he felt, he had philosophy enough to bear it, without any exterior shew of emotion. On the contrary, the Dervise, to the surprise of both Zamaspes and himself, seemed overcome with grief, which he vented in sighs and tears, Unable to account for distress so poignant, at the relation of the misfortunes of a person unknown, they asked him the reason of it. He replied, that he was not, as they thought,

thought, entirely unknown to Amurath: on the contrary, he had formerly conversed with him, and had, at that instant, particular and urgent business, which he could only communicate to himself. "In this case," said Ismael, "we must endeavour to follow him to Ispahan; though our disappointment at his absence is great, and much increased by the news of his capture, yet it is useless to give way to immoderate grief; we should rather try to recover our spirits, in order, if we can gain admission, to alleviate the sufferings of the prisoner: we should remember, that a burthen becomes lighter by being patiently borne, and that reflection would sooth the sorrows of the present, as our reliance upon Providence will raise our hopes with respect to the future hour."

With such admonitions, did Ismael, assisted by Zamaspes, assuage the immoderate grief of Koular the Dervise. Of the fire, they learned all the transactions of Amurath, Selim, and Rustan, after they left the mountain and the camp. Norival related to them the capture and recovery of Anime, and as much as she knew of the history of the English lady. She informed them also of the grateful expedition of Hassan to restore her to her husband. The tear of sensibility stole down her cheek, while she mentioned the manner in which he came to the knowledge of Captain Egerton. She numbered the days that he had been absent, and endeavoured to guess at the time when he would probably return.

To recover from their fatigue, they spent several weeks at the cottage of the temple. In the order that reigned
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among the little community, under the direction of the venerable Zamaspes, Ismael found abundant exercise for his admiration and applause. He observed, of the inhabitants, that they enjoyed all the seclusion necessary for the promotion of piety and reflection, and at the same time all the advantages of society; and that when they joined in prayer or thanksgiving, their devotion was far more animated than his solitary effusions had been. New to the world, he discovered, from the oraisons and hymns of a number of innocent and contrite hearts assembled together, that there was a glow, a fervor, in their public performance of religious duties, which in single exertions it was impossible to reach. The example of Zamaspes, who acted as priest and patriarch of this little community, at once pleased and edified him; and when he made the comparison, he

sighed to think how much more usefully his time had been employed than his own. "This truly respectable man," said he to himself, "hath undoubtedly not passed through a life, nearly as long as mine, without having had many reasons to be disgusted with mankind; without meeting many misfortunes. The disappointment of those hopes, which ever, in a sanguine temper, arise with the dawn of manhood, and like gentle gales, fan and stimulate the current of the mind to active pursuits. The neglect or deceit of supposed friends and connexions; the loss of relatives, and all the anxieties attendant upon advancing years, have unquestionably exerted their force against him, in common with the rest of the human race: yet he has not forsaken his post in the hour of danger: when misfortunes, which are sometimes decreed as trials for our fortitude, have
oppressed

oppressed him, he has not sunk under his burthen: no, he has rather exerted himself the more: has risen superior to the calamity of the hour, and by his precept and example, shewn, that shrinking from distress into listless indolence, or flying from dissipation into solitude, are equally blameable, as they both, perhaps, have their foundation in that kind of pride, which leads to the worst of consequences."

Such were the reflections of Ismael, as he considered the conduct of Zamaspes, and contrasted it with his own. With great satisfaction he walked through the different parts of the temple, and the demesnes occupied by the cottagers. Every dwelling presented to him a picture of domestic happiness. In one he beheld a mother, encircled by her children; she holds one in her arms; another extends its little

hands over her knees; a third climbs the chair, and reclines its head upon her shoulder: their faces join, and in their embraces, she feels a bliss, which a mother only can experience.

In the next, which resounded with the accents of joy, he observed a man engaged in the labours of the loom: several females and children were winding silk, and performing the subordinate branches of the manufacture. A beautiful girl sung, and at the end of every verse, the chorus was repeated by the whole company; though the cadences were frequently interrupted by loud and hearty bursts of laughter. Ismael was pleased with the industry and hilarity that prevailed in this mansion, and proceeded on to another. The murmur of infantile voices engaged his attention. He entered. A matron of a respectable appearance, was

was instructing several children in the precepts of the Alcoran. He inquired for the master of the house, and she pointed to a small door, which opened into a garden: here he found a man far advanced in years, but of a healthy and ruddy complexion, cultivating, with uncommon assiduity, several beds of vegetables. The Hermit complimented him upon the flourishing state of his plantation, and said, "he had no doubt but that his wife had as much success in improving the minds of the little nursery, which he had observed as he entered." The old man replied, "that their success in both occupations, had exceeded their expectation: but though thus humbly employed at present," he continued, "you see before you a man, who has formerly filled a station far more elevated; a station, which was to him the school of adversity. The loss of a son of great

hope, had this consolation attending it, that he died in the service of his country. A keener woe assailed me, through the medium of the husband of my daughter. He was employed in the collection of the public revenue, and punished with death, in consequence of some defalcation in his accounts. She, alas! survived that dreadful event but a short time; and as I suffered part of the obloquy attached to the memory of my son-in-law, I retired to this spot, with my wife, and the offspring of both my children. To form their minds, to plant in their hearts the principles of virtue, and to watch the growing progress of their ideas, has been the business of my declining years; and in order to accomplish these objects, by exciting an emulation, we have invited the children of the neighbouring cottagers, to share their education; the first

first rudiments of which, are superintended by my wife, and the higher branches, the amusement of my hours of relaxation from the labours of the field, or the cultivation of my garden."

"From such a benevolent and useful employment of time," said Ismael, "the most perfect peace of mind, and greatest internal happiness, must result."

He walked on to another cottage, at the door of which he met Zamaspes: they entered together, and admired the neatness and order that prevailed in the house and garden: the beauty of the mother and her children. When they left the place, the latter related the following short story of

IBIRHIM AND PERA.

I 5

"Ackbar,

“Ackbar, the father of Pera, had enjoyed, for a long time, a municipal office in the city of Cashan, which is about ten days journey from this temple. To his place he added an extensive traffick in oil, fruit, and other commodities. His affairs were in a flourishing state; he had a large house, several wives, a number of slaves, and every attendant circumstance that denoted opulence; but no child, except Pera, whom, therefore, he idolized. He considered her as given him at an advanced period of life, for a stay, a prop, to his declining years; and as she was often with him in public, he was pleased at the admiration which her beauty and accomplishments excited. Her attractions increased with her growth, and the lovely Pera was an epithet by which all her acquaintance were fond of distinguishing her.

“Ibirhim

“Ibirhim was, at that time, with his father, who had a small farm of his own, and besides that, cultivated a garden which he rented, in the vicinity of the city. He used generally to dispose of the corn, fruit, and oil, which they produced, to Ackbar. This brought him frequently to the house of the latter: he saw Pera: he would, had he not considered her situation so far above his own, have lov'd, or rather have declared his passion; for it is certain he concealed an involuntary flame, even, perhaps, from himself.

“At a time of life, when he could little brook disappointment or disgrace, a sudden change in the sentiments of the people, turned the astonished Ackbar out of his office. Pera used all her efforts to comfort and soothe the distresses of her father upon

that occasion. The old man derived consolation from the exertions of his daughter, and had, in some degree, thrown off the load which had oppressed his spirits; when a Banker, to whom he had trusted the greatest part of his property, failed. This stroke, which assailed him in a part where he was the most vulnerable, as, except to his daughter, his riches had been his darling attachment, fell therefore like a thunder-bolt upon him; and to compleat his misery, was followed by a chain of failures among his debtors, many of whom had placed the same confidence in the house as himself.

“In this distressed situation, his creditors came upon him, and not regarding the cries of Pera, were dragging him to prison, when they were met by Ibirhim. The youth had not been
near

near Cashan for many months; his attention had been devoted to the care of a sick father, lately deceased, and consequently, he was totally unacquainted with the state of affairs in the family of Ackbar.

“ His surprise at beholding that venerable man leaning upon the lovely Pera, and surrounded by the myrmidons of justice, for a moment suspended his faculties. He entreated them to suffer their prisoner to return, while he inquired into the state of his affairs; and when his supplication proved ineffectual, resolved to accompany them to prison. There he learned, that the engagements of Ackbar amounted to nearly as much as his whole possessions would sell for: yet, could he suffer a man, bending under the weight of near four-score years, oppressed with sickness and sorrow, to linger away the last
dregs

dregs of his life in a noisome gaol? Could he observe, unmoved, the father of the woman he ador'd, on the brink of an abyfs, containing the accumulated evils of want, penury, and imprisonment? Could he, without emotion, behold the sorrow of the lovely Pera, and see her sacrifice her own health to her attendance upon her parent? No! it is certain he could not. These circumstances of distress, conveyed sensations to his heart, too strong to be resisted; he obeyed their impulse, and as soon as he had offered every consolation to the prisoner and his daughter, that their situation would admit of, he flew to dispose of his paternal inheritance into money, which he did in a short time, he returned to the city, and calling the creditors of Ackbar together,

ther, paid them their demands. He then hurried to the prison, being anxious to arrive, in order to forward the emancipation of Ackbar. In an outer room he found Pera weeping. At the sound of his voice she raised her head, and on his inquiring what new distress had caused her tears to flow? answered, "that the gaoler had, that morning, ordered her father, as he had no longer money to pay for a separate apartment, into the common prison."

"How happy to me is this hour," he exclaimed, "an hour which gives Ibirhim an opportunity to dry your tears, to sooth your parent's sorrow!" "They enter'd the room, at the time the gaoler came to announce the liberty of Ackbar. His joy, in the first instance, was overcome by his gratitude in the second, when he understood he owed his freedom to Ibirhim: but his sensations,

sensations, blunted by age, gave place to the lively emotions of Pera. She had began a speech of acknowledgment, which, covered with blushes, and struggling for utterance, she continued, till oppressed by the quickness of her sensibility, she fainted in the arms of Ibirhim. He prest her to his bosom, and in that moment thought himself over-paid for all his services. When the conflicting passions of her soul were in some degree relieved by tears, and she recollected her situation, she blushed deeper than before, and gently extricated herself from his embrace.

“ They soon after left the prison, and in a few days the city, and resolving to remove to some distance, by easy journeys, they came to this place. The small remains of the patrimony of Ibirhim, he expended in building that cottage, and stocking a small farm annexed

annexed to it. It will hardly be necessary to add, that Pera had consented, with the approbation of her father, to become his wife, and that the ceremony was only delayed by the illness of Ackbar.

Both Ibirhim and Pera attended the old man with the greatest assiduity, who after languishing some weeks, expired, in the very act of bestowing blessings upon them, as they knelt by the side of his bed.

“As soon after the funeral of the parent, as decency would permit, the nuptials of Ibirhim and Pera were celebrated, and from that happy day, every thing seems to have prospered that they have undertaken. Their farm flourished far beyond those of their neighbours, and they have recovered large sums of money by the restoration of the
banker's

banker's affairs, whom Aekbar entrusted. The citizens of Cashan, pleased with the conduct of Ibirhim, and, perhaps, ashamed of their own, have solicited him to accept of the office which the father of Pera formerly enjoyed; but he has answered them, "that settled among people he respected; loving, and beloved by his wife and children; and possessing a fortune, which, to persons of their moderate desires, is affluence: he has no wish to change his present situation; a situation, in which he has more opportunity to do good, and less power to do harm, than he should have in that to which he is invited. That, though superior in dignity, he considers, may, from the envy and jealousy to which it is exposed, and the precarious tenure by which it is held, be inferior in happiness."

The

The caravan, for which the Hermit and Dervise had some time waited, at length arrived at the temple. They immediately joined it, and travelled on to Ispahan. Upon their journey, nothing more remarkable occurred, than the sorrow of the latter, which seemed to increase, the nearer they approached to the capital. When they arrived, they took up their lodging at a large caravansary.

Ismael appeared to be born again; every object struck him with astonishment, as he wandered abroad. He had, in his youth, seen the city; how different were the impressions made upon his mind by the same objects, at these different periods of his life. He visited the Meydan, the walks, the baths, all the public buildings, and principal parts; and in the various pursuits

puruits of mankind, found abundant food for contemplation.

As he was one day walking upon the bank of the river, accompanied by the Dervise, the latter was accosted by a brother of his own order, who joined them, and inquired, "what business had brought them to Ispahan, as he observed that they were both strangers to the place?"

As it was their wish to gain all possible intelligence of Amurath and his family, they made no scruple to inform him of the motives which induced them to take the journey. At the mention of Amurath and Selim, the Dervise expressed great surprise, and in return told them, "that his name was Fazel; that he was acquainted with the persons they had named; that he had escaped from the guards when they

they were captured, and from motives of gratitude to Selim, had come to Is-
pahan, to exert the little influence he
possessed in his favour."

"The unhappy captives, confined
in seperate prisons, in the vicinity of
the capital," he continued, "I have,
under the sanction of my habit, found
means to see; their treatment is harsh,
particularly that of Amurath, which is
judged to be owing to the influence of
Omar and Asgar, who are now here;
and as the causes of the Merchant, and
the Bassa Selim, have made a consider-
able noise, it is generally imagined that
they will be speedily heard."—"In
the mean time," said the younger
Dervise, "Where are the daughters
of Amurath?"—"Under the protec-
tion of Sifi Agib, an officer of the
court," replied Fazel, "and I have
heard, with pleasure, that they are
secluded

secluded from the world, and consequently secured from the attempts of the Persian chiefs, who, it has been reported, execrate themselves for bringing, or rather suffering them to be brought to this city."

CHAP. XI.

THE Dervise, Fazel, had rightly stated to the Hermit, and his companion, that the treatment of the prisoners was harsh, particularly that of Amurath. He, alas! was confined in the common gaol at Ispahan; and although he had his dungeon entirely to himself, had been, till Fazel arrived, debar'd of every other comfort: by his influence,
and

and that of his order, he was better accommodated, and used with greater lenity.

Selim and Rustan were immur'd in the seperate angles of a large castle, which stood at a short distance from the city. The latter, indeed, had the liberty of walking around the battlements, and frequently amused himself with the contemplation of the ivy crown'd turrets; the effect of the light and shade upon the walls; the variety of tints, which the humidity of the atmosphere, and different mural plants and mosses dispersed over the edifice: the stones, mouldering away under the pressure of the hand of time; the ramparts overrun with weeds, and some of the towers reclining, he considered, as forming a whole, highly partaking of picturesque wildness, and romantically beautiful.

When

When he had, from the ramparts, observed the building, he descended into the garden, to which he had access, and going to a distance, he connected it with the surrounding landscape. Bright exhalations reflected a broad expanse of light on the general form, which the trees relieved by as great a breadth of shadow on the northern side; and the darkest tint on the pines and cypresses on the fore-ground. Majestic clouds upon a soft azure sky, blended, and catching lights from the half-obscured sun, fell upon the most prominent parts of the towers, trees, and battlements, and completed a scene, upon which he dwelt for some time, with a kind of mental satisfaction, until turning his eyes towards Ispahhan, a brilliant ray struck upon the gilded crescents that adorn'd the minarets of the Mosques. This brought to his mind the place which contained

Anime; the distress of Amurath; his own imprisonment; and in a strain of unpleasing speculations, he retired to his apartment.

The close and solitary confinement of Selim, rendered him, every hour, a martyr to the most poignant sensations. In his mind, love and grief took their turns, and preyed with equal force upon his heart. At one time, Galatie, adorned with all her attractions, appeared before him: she seemed robed in white drapery, which only confined by a zone of blue under her bosom, fell, in redundant folds, over her limbs, and shewed her elegant form to the greatest advantage. Her tresses floated in the air, and hung in curls over her forehead. She smiled, and seemed to wave her beautiful hand toward him. While, with mental eye, he gazed in raptures upon this lovely vision, sudden

it fled; a shriek seemed to pierce his ear. He then beheld it return, with garments deranged, and hair dishevel'd, pursued by Omar: he starts: attempts to draw his cimeter; but alas! he finds himself disarm'd, and a prisoner.

The Hermit and Dervise, wishing to see Amurath, Fazel conducted them to the place of his confinement, he having procured an order for that purpose. They found him at the lowest ebb of despondency, from which he had a momentary relief, in the surprise which the presence of Ismael occasioned. The Hermit suffered his wonder to operate for some time, before he informed him of the motives that induced him to mingle again with the world.

“Satisfied, nay, happy in my situation,” said he, “I had, as I thought, long since bid adieu to all the cares and
2 passions

passions attendant upon mortality. Long had I congratulated myself upon my removal from the scenes of voluptuousness, dissipation, cruelty, turbulence, ambition, avarice, and fraud, that I had formerly experienced. I had, in my own opinion, made up my mind, and in my recess, was patiently waiting for the hour of dissolution, which my advanced age, rather than any personal decay, informed me could be at no great distance. When I met you upon the mountain, such was the situation of my mind. The discovery of our consanguinity awakened those domestic passions that had long lain dormant in my breast; I then found that the ties of mortality were not entirely broken. When you and your family left me, I discovered a void in my heart, which I had never before felt: my solitary occupations, books, or the care of providing for my few

wants, had no longer force sufficient to turn my mind from contemplating upon the satisfaction it would give me, to resign my latest breath in the bosom of my family. For this purpose I began my journey; but it has hitherto been a journey of disappointment.

“ In what a place do I find you ! Little did I imagine, when we parted, that we should ever meet again; and still less could I suppose, if a meeting between us was effected, a prison would be the scene of it. Still, my son Amurath, though bow'd to the ground by misfortunes, suffer not despondence to take possession of your mind; the Being that preserved your own, and your daughters lives, through the storm: that sheltered your infancy, and protected you to the meridian of your existence, will, doubtless, extend his arm, and either disperse your enemies,
or

or turn their malice upon themselves : and I have the most fervent hope, that your declining years will, by his influence and favour, be rendered as happy as any that have preceded them."

While Ismael was administering comfort to the distressed Amurath, the young Dervise wept abundantly, and when he had ceased, said, "One part of the consolation you stand so much in need of, it is in my power to supply."

"There is, perhaps ——"

Here he was interrupted by the keeper of the prison, who brought intelligence, that the trials of Amurath, Selim and Rustan, were fixed at the distance of three days ; and that in the mean time he had orders to keep the strictest guard, and not suffer any per-

son to have access to the prisoner : that in consequence of these orders, they must directly leave the dungeon.

Ismael remonstrated, and observed, “ that the person who stood before him, had something of importance to communicate.” They petitioned for one hour ; half that time ; a few minutes : he was inexorable, and they were obliged to leave the prisoner to his own melancholy reflections ; to which were added, the pangs of suspense with respect to the business of the young Dervise ; in whose manner there was something that laid strong hold of his attention, and excited his curiosity.

CHAP. XII.

THE causes of Selim, the Bassa; Rustan, his friend, and Amurath, the merchant, had been so much the subjects of conversation, both at court and in the city, that it was resolved, in order to give greater solemnity to the proceedings, that they should be heard before the Divan.

On the third day after the meeting between the Hermit and Amurath, they were accordingly assembled in the great audience chamber. The Athemadoulet presided, and the Deroga was the prosecutor. The Omrahs at-

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tended:

tended: the Sophi was also present, but in a closet behind the throne, concealed from public view by lattices, and curtains of green and gold.

Asgar and Omar were seated on the right hand of the throne, with a number of the Khans, Beys, and other governors of provinces, and all the foreign ministers and strangers at that time in the capital. The Cadis, and great officers, filled the opposite benches. The Moullahs were ranged on each side of the space intended for the prisoners, and behind, the public were admitted.

When the Athemadoulet had taken his seat, and silence had been proclaimed three times, the merchant, Amurath, Selim and Rustan, were conducted to the bar by a party of the Sophi's guards. A buz ran through the court,
which

which subsided into silent admiration, at the placid, yet firm demeanor of the prisoners.

The Judge, addressing himself first to Amurath, said, "At your time of life, you cannot be ignorant of the severity of the Persian decrees, with respect to the crimes of which you are accused. You must have read, or heard, that former Emperors have been summary in their decisions, and equally swift and severe in their punishments: but our present gracious Monarch, convinced of the injustice hath that too frequently attended hasty sentences; and from his mildness and benevolence, being more inclined to permit, even the guilty to escape, than suffer the innocent to be punished: and knowing, moreover, that every cause hath two faces: that either party can represent the same matter in a different light, is deter-

mined, by me his minister, to hear both sides of the question.

“ In points of law, respecting his defence, the prisoner will have the liberty to take the opinion of the Cadis, and learned Doctors around, of the facts the Omrahs and myself are to be the judges: but at the same time, if either party suspect harshness or injustice in our determination, an appeal lies open to the Emperor. I therefore, in the name of our Illustrious Monarch, Sha Gehan, command the accuser of Amurath to stand forth, and explain to the court the nature of his crime.”

The Deroga hereupon arose, and bowing thrice to the throne, began.

“ Impartial and learned minister of the most sublime and magnanimous Sophi; supreme lord of the numerous
kingdoms

kingdoms of the east; whose word is fate; whose power extends like the influence of the sun; and before the brilliancy of whose throne, the princes and potentates of the earth humble themselves to the dust: permit the vilest of the slaves of a Monarch, equally infallible and invincible, to stand forth as an agent for the two princes, Omar and Asgar; as a suppliant to the honour, the dignity, the justice of the Persian sceptre; as the echo of the general voice of the people, who, by me demand, that the sword of the law may fall upon the neck of that miscreant, that traitor, that murderer, the merchant Amurath."

The Deroga was here interrupted by the Judge, who told him, "it would much shorten the cause, if he confined himself to the accusation, and for the future avoided all harsh epi-

thets, as totally irrelative to the business.

The pleader bowed, and proceeded.
“ The accusation to which, most learned Athemadoulet, you wish me to confine myself, lays in a very narrow compass. I desire not to inflame the passions of the court. It is not my custom to assail the hearts of my hearers, but by the most irrefragable, uncontrovertible truths. The crimes of treason and murder, of which I accuse the prisoner, are enough to inspire horror, to spread amazement around, without any observations of mine. The proofs you will collect from the attestation of the princes; you will from them learn, that the merchant had long been in the habit of corresponding with the Dutch, Portuguese, and other Europeans; that he had remitted his fortune, through their medium; that
he

he had invited them to invade the Persian dominions, and that the correspondence was discovered to the princes, by means of his wife Erminia, whom he had used with the greatest cruelty. You will hear, that in consequence of his being made acquainted with her treachery, as he called it, he basely and barbarously murdered her, and then fled with his daughters. That the princes, knowing what they owed to public justice, pursued them; this, with the subsequent transactions, you will hear from their own mouths, if he does not spare the court the trouble of the inquiry, by confessing himself guilty."

The Judge then appealed to Amurath, who answered in a firm tone, "Most learned Athemadoulet, certainly not guilty of any part of the crimes of which I am accused." He
was

was proceeding, but the court told him, "that they must first hear the evidence by which the Deroga meant to substantiate the charge against him."

The princes Omar and Asgar then came forward; they proved generally his connexions and dealings with the Europeans. The Judge told them, "that he had never yet heard, that it was treason to have communication with nations that were not at war with the Persians: that they must be more particular, and state some act, or acts, inimical to the peace of the country, seditious words, or open rebellion."

The Deroga hereupon called a number of witnesses, who were chiefly the slaves of Amurath, or persons concerned in carrying on his commerce. They proved the correspondence that subsisted between him, the Dutch, and Portuguese:

Portuguese: the preference he had, upon all occasions, given to the Europeans: the praises he had bestowed upon their governments: and the contempt with which he had frequently spoken of the Sophi and his ministers." When questioned respecting Erminia, they said, "that to their knowledge she had been sent away by the merchant; that the two slaves who accompanied her, had endeavoured to seduce them into the plot, which was to carry her to a distance, and murder her in the woods: that they said they acted by the command of Amurath, which the disappearance of Erminia strongly corroborated." This was the substance of the evidence, which was supported by a host of deponents. When the whole had been gone through, the merchant was called upon for his defence, which he began in the following words.

" Think

“ Think not, most learned judge, that at my time of life, a man tossed like myself in the storms of adversity, wishes to cling, for a few years longer, to the tree of existence, or to support his declining age upon the pedestal of falsehood. My two children, those endearing ties which hold me to the world, may be loosened, may be taken away, however reluctant to me the separation. My possessions may devolve to strangers: my friends shrink from me, and I can bear it all: but when my moral character is attacked by a prosecution like this: when my honour, and even my life, is at stake: when to the power to do evil, which those perfidious chiefs have formerly exercised in an unbounded degree; they have the malignity to add this recent accusation, which they know, in every respect, to be untrue, and which they endeavour to support, by subornation, by perjury in the witnesses,

nesses, and falshood in themselves. I confess my passions rise above the moderation which I had prescribed to myself: above, even the respect that I owe to the court, and render me incapable of making that defence, which the unhappy circumstances of my case require. But in even a cooler moment, what kind of defence could I make, precluded from any connexion with my friends and country? How is it possible I should call any witnesses?"

"One, at least, voluntarily steps forward," said a young man on the opposite bench; "one, in rank, equal to the chiefs; inferior, I hope, in nothing but villany." — A murmur of amazement pervaded the court, and he proceeded. "I can, with truth, depose, that the character of the merchant, as the best of husbands, the fondest of parents, and the fairest and most

most punctual of dealers, hath been long established throughout the province. The breath of calumny had never dar'd to taint his reputation, until the machinations of Omar and Asgar were levelled at it. The praises of his integrity and benevolence dwelt upon every tongue, till they chose to raise a faction against him; to destroy his reputation; to impede his commerce; and finally to drive him from his dwelling. If it is asked, Why they aimed their malignity at a man so innocent? the answer is easy. This man had two beautiful daughters; this man had refused the application of the chiefs to him for their favour; and the virgins themselves had treated their clandestine offers with disdain. Furious with rage, they assembled a band of armed ruffians, and tore them from the arms of their mother. I myself, assisted by several of my brave companions,

panions, that are now present, met, and rescued them.

“ From that moment, the chiefs vowed the ruin of Amurath. Incendiaries were introduced into his house, who were to endeavour to inflame his jealousy against Erminia, and her's with respect to him; and to insinuate to her, that his affections being totally alienated, the hours which his grief forced him to devote to solitude; or his business compelled him to sacrifice to commercial transactions, were spent in voluptuous pleasures: that he had purchased several beautiful females, and established a Haram in the country.”

“ The plan which they had thus laid, succeeded but too well. The susceptible Erminia, almost frantic with jealousy, at this intelligence, determined to leave the house. The emissaries employed,

employed, without giving her time to cool, urg'd her to put her design in execution, by new instances of the infidelity of Amurath. She flew to Dareka, my mother, for protection : here the intrigues of the princes were unravelled ; their black designs develop'd ; but alas ! too late ! Amurath had left the country."

" The grief of Erminia knew no bounds ; and when some of the retinue of the chiefs, who had failed in pursuit of the merchant, returned, and we learned from them that he was in the neighbourhood of Caucasus, she disappeared, and we supposed she was gone in search of her husband and children."

Various were the emotions of the court, during this recital, which was delivered with great energy by the young Omrah. There is a charm in
truth,

truth, which finds its way to the heart. Conviction of the villiany and malignity of the chiefs, flash'd upon the minds of the judges; they looked at each other with silent amazement; when the young Dervise appeared at the bar, and said,

“ If there yet wants a further confirmation of the innocence of Amurath, behold the object that he has been accused of murdering.” Then throwing off her turban and robe, she discovered to the merchant his long lost wife. He embraced her in an agitation not to be described; and Erminia turning to the judges, addressed them as follows.

“ The words, oh most illustrious and serene Athemadoulet, which the benevolent Omrah Nazer has just uttered, are but too faithful a representation

tion of the crimes and machinations of the two chiefs, Omar and Asgar. By their insinuations I was driven from a dwelling, which had been, until that time, the mansion of conjugal felicity ; from the arms of a beloved husband, and the society of two amiable daughters. When the same vengeance forced them from our mansion, near Ormus, my grief was unspeakable ; and upon the first intelligence of their having taken shelter in the caverns of Caucasus, I left the house of Nazer and Dareka. When I arrived at a proper distance, I assumed the habit of a Dervise, and after travelling over a vast extent of country, in search of them, and suffering innumerable hardships, I met the benevolent Ismael, who conducted me to Ispahan. Three days since we were at the prison, where I intended to have discovered myself, but was suddenly forced away. Therefore,

fore, as this august assembly have now ocular demonstration of the falshood and malignity of the accusation against Amurath, permit me, oh upright judges, to crave his liberty, and also to beg, that our children may be restored to us."

"Amurath," said the judge, "is, I believe, with the approbation of the whole court, restored to liberty; but the justice of Persia would be incomplete, was it to stop here. That you may long be happy in your children, and in each other, is the wish of all around you; yet still the troubles that have been brought upon you by the malicious chiefs, require a compensation; and that the severity they practised against others, should be extended to themselves; I therefore order them to the prison from which the merchant

is

is now released, until the Sultan's pleasure be further known."

The Omrahs, Omar and Asgar, were accordingly taken from the court, followed by the execrations of the people, while Ismael, the Hermit, and Fazel, the Dervise, congratulated Amurath and Erminia upon their present joyful meeting. They had retired from the bar, and the cause of Selim and Rustan was about to commence, when the father of Haly appeared, and said, "A far greater criminal than either of the chiefs that now stand before you, wishes to throw himself upon the justice of his country, or rather, upon the mercy of the Sophi; but as one that is connected and involved with him in the crime, is of a sex and rank that has ever commanded respect and adoration, I have, on the part of the Princess Semira, orders
to

to request that the court may be cleared, and to say, that she intends, with Haly, to deliver herself immediately into the hands of justice."

The utmost amazement struck every one present, at this speech: the Athemadoulet retired, to take the direction of the Monarch, who commanded all, except Selim, Rustan, and a few of the principal Omrahs, to withdraw. When the latter were seated, he came and mounted the throne, at the foot of which the Judge and the Deroga, placed themselves.

The father of Haly also had retired, and soon after entered, with his son, who supported a lady, veiled. "The danger which hath attended the lives of the most generous of men, Selim, and his friend Rustan, has," he said, "brought us from a part of Persia,

remote from this city, and where we, probably, might have lived in safety. Behold, oh Emperor, your daughter ! and in me the seducer of Semira."

While he was speaking, the Princess laid aside her veil, and the Sophi darting a look full of fury at her, said, " Degenerate girl ! was it not enough, after all the indulgence which you have met with from me ; after the more than paternal love and tenderness with which you have been regarded, that you should withdraw yourself from my protection ; but that you should also make a slave, so infinitely beneath you, the companion of your flight ? Will all the tortures to which he shall instantly be doom'd, for polluting the ancient blood of the Sophi's ; for daring to aspire to the daughter of his Monarch, compensate for the trouble he has caused, and the disgrace he has brought upon me ?

For

For you, Semira, closely imprisoned in the castle, you shall remain, till I consider what further punishment to decree: but for your paramour, I order him immediately to undergo the severest, and most painful infliction; after which, I command that his head be struck off."

The Princess threw herself at his feet, in an agony of distress. "Pardon," she cried, "oh father! oh Emperor! pardon the innocent Haly! What shall I say to move you? Is there no one to plead for him? Yes! there is one, deeply concern'd in our fate, who, though not an accomplice, is the consequence of our crime." She then made a signal, and an attendant brought a most beautiful infant, and delivered it into her arms. "Behold," she said, "the son of your once beloved Semira! Behold the grandson of

Sha Gehan, who now lifts up his little hands, and pleads for the life of his father!"

The Sophi seemed mov'd, and turning away, said, "I have too often censur'd hasty determinations, to persist even in my own. I remit that part of the sentence of Haly, which orders immediate execution: let him have time to prepare; though the child now before me is rather an aggravation, than a palliation of your crime. Shall the worm that crawls upon the ground, presume to mingle with the eagle that towers aloft? Must the throne of Persia, the descendants of Darius, be contaminated?"

"On the part of Haly, said his father, "Most just, wise, and august Sultan, permit me to speak, and at the same time, pardon my boldness, when
I assert,

I assert, that the blood of Darius is by no means contaminated, by the marriage of Haly and Semira: fortunate it is for us, that here comes a witness, who can corroborate the truth of what I shall advance." At this period the Grand Vizier, who had been sometime absent upon an expedition, entered, and the father of Haly continued. "Giafer, as well as myself, must remember the wars and intestine troubles in which Persia was involved, previous to the commencement of your happy reign. You know that your brother, Sha Soliman, was long a prisoner to the usurper Abbas: but you do not know that he had, while he was confined in a castle, near my residence in the country, a son, by a favourite sultana, who was permitted to reside with him. When the troubles recommenced, and he expected every hour the fatal catastrophe that soon after befel him, he

sent Giafer the Vizier, who now stands before you, to me ; he came attended by two female slaves, who brought the infant, and a packet, containing jewels, his seal, and a letter, all which I have carefully preserved." He then gave a gold case into the hands of the Sophi, who opening it, found a paper, which he knew to be the writing of his brother : it contained these words.

" Left the malignity and misfortune which has long pursued the unhappy Soliman, should be extended to his offspring, I entrust my only son to your care : educate him as your own, and call him Haly. Should a propitious change of circumstances take place, and enable me, I will claim him, and reward your fidelity : but if, as I fear, this will be the last intercourse between us, I charge you, by our former friendship, let him not,
without

without it should be necessary for the preservation of his life, know how near he is allied to the throne of Persia, and to the unfortunate

SOLIMAN."

Tears came into the eyes of the Sophi, while he perused this letter; and when he had finished, he bowed his head upon it, and wept in silence. Observing that the effusion of his grief had, in some degree, subsided, Giafer said, "Every circumstance related by Kouli Negif, I perfectly remember. Toss'd, in the contentions of the times, I was, for several years, absent from Ispahan. When peace was restored, and your Sublime Highness happily settled upon the Persian throne, observing the youth that pass'd for the son of Kouli, I once questioned him respecting the infant committed to his

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charge

charge by Soliman; but as I remark'd that he forbore giving me a direct answer, I have never since urged him upon the subject. When the young Haly was recommended to my protection, I placed him among the noble youths, to whom your Highness had allotted a part of the palace of Miriwies, as a military academy. How the acquaintance between him and the Princess Semira commenced, I am yet to learn."

"At the palace of the Princess Alzira, the widow of Sha Soliman," said Semira, "I first saw Haly. As I had permission to visit that beautiful lady, I found my desire to attend on her increased, after that encounter, though I was ignorant of the cause. Happy! thrice happy! were the hours of childhood which I passed with my beloved Haly. When our ages made
it.

it necessary to lay a greater restraint upon us, with what grief did I lament, that my opportunities of seeing him were abridged? and when he was ordered to the army, unable to bear his absence, I took the resolution to follow him. As soon as we had left Selim and the camp, we travelled to the next town, where we were married. We had, since that event, continued in disguise, for some time, in a large village, at a considerable distance from Ispahan, till we were discovered by the Dervise Fazel. After that meeting, we absolutely determined to leave the Persian dominions; but, fearful of the fate, which, upon our account, impended over the head of Selim, could not prevail with ourselves to put our resolution in practice. We therefore hovered about the capital, and when we heard that it was intended to bring him and Rustan to trial for

our crime, resolved to throw ourselves upon the mercy of the Emperor."

"In that respect," said the Sophi, "you have acted like relations, whom I shall be proud to own. Let Selim and Rustan be immediately liberated; and as, through a misapprehension, they have suffered in their fortunes and their fame, it shall be my first business to restore them to their honours and commands, with large additions."

The Bassa and his friend bowed their acknowledgments, and the Sophi proceeded. "The hasty sentence which I pronounced upon the son, and image of Soliman, my beloved brother, for an offence, of which I should probably have myself been guilty, had I been in similar circumstances, I revoke. I embrace you, Haly, by the doubly endearing ties of son and nephew;

phew; and will, directly, give orders to the Vizier, to form an establishment for you, suitable to the dignity of your birth. Semira, my darling daughter, I receive you again into my arms;” and then tenderly taking the infant, he said, “ Let this lovely child, when he can speak, be taught to tell his parents, that at the sight of him, the first emotions of pity entered the heart of his grandfather. Take, oh charming boy! this parental kiss, from one who repents his harshness, and here vows to be the guardian and protector of your youth: nor shall the reputed father of Haly, Giafer, or the rest, be forgotten by me.”

Haly now came forward, and kneeling, took the hand of the Sophi; at the same time attempting to speak; when after several efforts, he burst into tears; which the Monarch observing,

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said,

said, "Let us retire, my children: the events of the day have strain'd our spirits too high: I observe the gratitude that quivers upon your lips; though your emotions will not suffer it to depart from them. That dumb eloquence sooner finds its way to my heart, than the most florid elocution: I feel all the sentiments that you endeavour to express; therefore, repress your sensations, as it is my opinion, that for the present, quiet and recollection are equally necessary for us all. To you, Giafer, I leave the care of the festivals and rejoicings, which this happy occasion demands, and of which I order, that all my subjects, according to their different ranks, may partake."

CHAP. XIII.

INEXPRESSIBLE was the joy of Amurath, the Hermit, Erminia, and the Dervise, when Selim and Rustan joined them in the anti-chamber, where, with anxious impatience, they had waited the event of the decision of the Sophi: that joy was, if possible, increased, when they were informed that matters had taken a turn so favourable, and, indeed, so honourable to the two friends. They repaired immediately to the house of an acquaintance of Fazel's; and, while Selim went to inform his father, Rustan recounted to them the events of the day; the whole proceedings.

proceedings of the Sophi, and the adventures of Haly and Semira.

The Bassa soon returned, to conduct Amurath and Erminia to his palace, the Hermit choosing to stay with the Dervise. He wish'd to make Galatie and Anime partakers of the general satisfaction; in which wish he was joined by Rustan; it was therefore determined that an application should be made to the Vizier, for leave to visit the young ladies.

The disappointment of Erminia was visible upon her countenance, when she was informed, that an application of that nature could not be made till the next day. Amurath and his wife then accompanied Selim and Rustan, and were, by the former, introduced to his father, who received them with equal politeness and benignity.

Slowly

Slowly seemed to linger the hours, with the merchant and Erminia, until they embraced their daughters. The young ladies had been previously apprised of the business of the preceding day, and when they arrived, flew, with rapture, to meet their parents. The impatient Selim and Rustan, soon after joined them, and were received with an approbation by them, which denoted that they were favoured lovers. Erminia seemed equally pleased with the Bassa and his friend. In exultations upon their present success, and laying plans for future happiness, time stole imperceptibly away. That the day was so far advanced, was only called to their recollection, by an observation made by Amurath, who said, that long before that hour, Ismael had promised to join their groupe. While they were wondering what could be the cause of his detention, Fazel, the Dervise,

vise, arrived, and informed them, that in the course of the preceding night, he had been seized with a sudden illness, which was supposed to be owing to the fatigue he had undergone, together with the recent change he had made of his mode of life and situation. Alarmed at this intelligence, Amurath went directly to his lodgings, and found the old man in a condition, which shewed that sickness had made a considerable inroad upon his constitution in a short time.. His bodily weakness seemed to have affected his mind, and his speech was scarcely coherent. The alarming state of the respectable Ismael, suspended the joy of the family. For eight days they were indefatigable in their attendance around his couch: on the ninth, although his weakness seemed to increase, yet his reason appeared to return. He awoke from an heavy lethargic slumber, and his eyes wandering

wandering over the chamber, he beheld Amurath, to whom he made signs to approach. When the merchant came near the bed, "I think," said he, "that I have some faint recollection of your face:—Tell me where I am? Where I have seen you? Who are those persons in the room?" The sorrowful Amurath endeavoured, as well as he could, to satisfy his demands; and while he was explaining to him his present situation, the Hermit raised himself up, and folding his hands together, said, "Thanks and praises to the benevolent Allah, for this lucid interval: for this moment, in which memory is restored to me. May I employ it properly! I now see before me the picture of my former life: I behold the vanity and dissipation of my youth: the pride and profusion that distinguished my middle age: how I spent my declining years in solitude
and

and repentance : may my sincere contrition have reached the throne of mercy, before which I shall soon be summoned to appear."

"Son of my brother," he continued, "my desire to revisit the haunts of men; to mingle once more with the busy world; to spend my last dregs of life among my relations, and yield up my breath in the bosom of my family, arose from my casually meeting with you in a place far secluded from society. I hope I have not erred, in abandoning a solitude of near forty year's continuance : if I have, surely it will be considered as a venial trespass, and the arm of mercy will be extended towards me ! yes ! I see it will ! the angel that hath hitherto been my guardian and protector, smiles and invites me to him ! Let all your family approach my bed, while I entreat them

them to preserve, through life, that integrity of heart, that rectitude of mind, which has hitherto marked their characters: which has made them worthy of the protection of Omnipotence, by whose mercy they are extricated from all the troubles and difficulties by which they were surrounded, and who will, undoubtedly, continue to shed his influence upon them, whether they remain in the active and busy world, or retire to solitude and seclusion. Though I should not, whatever misfortunes may occur, advise the latter. Every one hath a task allotted, a part assigned; and it appears like retreating from a post in the hour of danger, to shrink from the world because every circumstance is not just as we would have it; when, perhaps, that it is not so, if we were to examine our own hearts, is in a great measure owing to ourselves. I leave my blessing, which
is

is all that I have to bestow among you ; and as I find life ebbing fast away, request that every one, except Amurath and the Dervise, may retire, that my last minutes may be spent in prayer, undisturbed by any external objects.”

All the company, but those named by Ismael, left the room, in the deepest sorrow. In a short time they were joined by Amurath and the Dervise, who informed them, that the old man, after a prayer, and fervent ejaculation, raised his eyes to heaven, and uttering a deep sigh, expired in the arms of his nephew.

When the funeral rites were performed, Amurath began to arrange matters for his departure. He determined to return to Ormus, as he had been, through the influence of Haly, appointed to the post of receiver of
the

the revenue of the province, and assured both of protection and further promotion. Selim and Rustan had been named to the governments of large districts, in the same part of Persia; and while they were making preparations for the celebration of their nuptials with Galatie and Anime, those ladies were one morning surprised with the appearance of Hassan, who delivered to the former of them the following letter.

CHAP. XIV.

THE LETTER.

Calcutta.

SEPERATED from each other by mountains and deserts, how imperfect will my thanks, conveyed through the medium of this paper, appear, to my lovely friends Galatie and Anime.

I How

How shall I find expressions strong enough to represent the gratitude I feel, for your attention and kindness to me, in the hour of poignant distress? How speak my sense of the obligation which I owe to Rustan for my deliverance; to Selim, Amurath, every one, with whom you, dearest sisters of my heart, are connected? but though born in countries far remote from each other, as our souls, with pride and pleasure I repeat it, are, I flatter myself, nearly allied; I shall judge of the joy you will feel, at the happy termination of my distresses, by that which I should have experienced, had either of you been in the like circumstances, and it had been in my power to have afforded you the same relief and consolation. You will see, by the place from which this is dated, that I am returned to Calcutta. Egerton is recovered, and we part no more: but as you will be anxious to know the events that have passed

passed since I left you, I shall no longer wound your generous feelings by my grateful exordium, but proceed in my narrative.

When I departed from the cottage of the benevolent Zamaspes, under the conduct of the faithful Haffan, and his friends, we took the road to the province of Bengal. After a journey, in which we had no other difficulties to contend with, than those which arose from travelling over mountains, and through deserts, we arrived in safety at the French garrison. When I had informed the commandant who I was, and by that means gained admission, as I was fearful, if I abruptly appeared, it might cause an emotion in the spirits of my husband, that might be attended with dangerous consequences. I sent for Frederick, who informed me, that his master was so far recovered, as to have determined soon to have set out
in

in search of me, for which purpose he had settled the business of his being exchanged. This faithful domestic was elated with joy at my return, "as it would," he said, "complete the captain's recovery, whose anxiety upon my account, was now, he assured me, the greatest malady he had to complain of. He undertook to announce my arrival to his master, and for that purpose left me with precipitation: but whether he was a bad dissembler, or that the hurry of his spirits betrayed him, is uncertain; I should judge the latter, for before he had uttered many words, by way of preface, Charles, who exclaimed, "Maria is arrived!" flew out of the room, and in an instant I was in his arms.

I must leave to your own hearts, which, if I do not greatly mistake, now experience that passion, which is the sum of my earthly happiness, to imagine

ment that could be made? any incumbrance that could be thrown off?—Yes! my sister and myself; so callous had dissipation rendered our parents hearts, that we were thought to hang like a dead weight upon their income. The son had been unsuccessful.—From what cause?—his own intemperance. Let the daughters try their fortunes.

With the advice of friends it was determined, that, as we had beauty and accomplishments sufficiently attractive, we should be sent as sacrifices at the golden altars of Hymen, raised in Indostan. The necessary preparations made, we took leave of our parents, and with twelve young and beautiful females, who were engaged in the same pursuit, left our native shores.

“ Here,” said Galatie, “ I again interrupted the lady in her narrative,

by saying, your appearance in this country, madam, confirms the truth of what you have advanced, otherwise, to us it would appear incredible. We have always considered the Europeans in general, and the English in particular, as people who paid the greatest respect to the dignity of the female character: perhaps you will wonder to hear that word from the lips of a Persian; but a mother who derived her extraction from inhabitants of your hemisphere, taught us the superior advantages enjoyed; the distinction claimed by, and the respect paid to female virtue, modesty, and delicacy, in the western world. What would my beloved parent have said, had she been told, that all those respectful attentions, that mental homage, those refined distinctions, which though not easily expressed, are felt, and stamp a value, both upon the giver and the receiver,

hath ceased? That the hereditary delicacy of the English female character is forfeited, and that every vessel consigned to our shores, brings bands of virgins, either the victims of parental ambition, or their own; who have left their native land, and turned their small fortunes into gew-gaws and ornaments, with a view to expose their persons to sale in the matrimonial market, to greater advantage. No longer let the Jews, and black merchants of Asia, be reproached for their traffick in Georgian, or Circassian beauties. No longer let the Algerines be censured for their disposal of the females that fall in the way of their piratical depredations: the first may plead the custom of the east, through a long succession of ages: from the ignorance and barbarity of the second, refinement is not to be expected; but both have certainly found an excuse for, and perhaps a ri-

val, 'in that branch of commerce, in the English, whose country, abounding in feminine charms, is likely, from the superiority and cheapness of the article, to engross the whole trade.

"The English lady," continued Anime, referring to the manuscript, "replied,"

All the evils that wait upon this modern mode of personal merchandize, are, as you have stated them; but, alas! too frequently attended by one you have either overlooked or forgotten. We not only leave our own country, in search of husbands, obliged to accept the first hand that is extended to us when we arrive on the Indian shore; but we leave the lover, the friend, the companion of our youth; as it happened in the case of the object who now addresses you.

When

When our ship sailed from the British coast; standing upon a rock, first endeavouring to catch every glimpse of myself, and then of the vessel, till it had passed the horizon, and totally receded from his sight, was fixed Charles Egerton, the companion of my infantile sports, the friend of my youth, and the lover of my riper years.

A low wall only, separated the demesnes of our parents, in the dear place of my nativity. The intimacy between our families in the early part of our lives, daily brought us together. Our attachment grew with our growth, and we loved each other before we knew the meaning of that word. When the sports and gambols of childhood gave place to the bashfulness of male, and the dignity of female adolescence; though frequent separations had shewn us how dear we were to each other,

yet from that time, to years of maturity, no mention of his passion had escaped the lips of Charles; our short meetings had been marked by the most respectful attention on his part, and proper reserve on mine. The protection I received from him in the hour of terror and danger, incurred, from a wild animal in crossing a field, brought on a conversation, which terminated in a vow of eternal constancy. Folded in each other's arms, how often have we repeated it. That vow, to an object so deserving, modern dissipation, parental severity, forced me to break.

I arrived safely in India; my companions of the voyage, previous to their landing, drew from their chests all the attractions of dress: neither my sister or myself, made any alteration in our usual garb, which was a robe of white muslin, tied round the waist with a pale green

green sash ; small hats with white ribbons, and our unpowdered hair flowing in loose ringlets upon our shoulders.

It has been remarked, that our sex, like the ancient Parthians, take the surest aim when they seem to recoil : this was the case with us ; we were honoured with the first offers at the mart of Hymen.

The custom of the place, as I understood, did not allow the person who had once refused, the liberty of a second choice. My sister had no particular attachment ; and as for me, after the loss of Charles, all mankind were alike indifferent. We accordingly gave our hands, and I fear only our hands, to two gentlemen, who were the objects of desire to all our female competitors.

By

By these unions, we gained, what had been so much the family wish, riches. The most unbounded wealth, and all its concomitants, state, luxury, splendour and equipage, we were now in possession of.

Mr. B*****, the husband of Emilia, was one of the Council, and upon an alteration of affairs, in about twelve months after her marriage, he was ordered home.

Mr. R*****, who had honoured me with his hand, was a gentleman rather older than my father; higher in office, and, it was supposed, richer than the spouse of my sister.

A tumult in the camp at this period, broke off the narrative of Anime. Rustan started up, and flew out of the tent, to inquire the cause from which
it

it proceeded ; on his return, he said it had arisen from some of the men running to arms, upon a report, that a party of horse had appeared at a short distance from the outworks. This report occasioned considerable confusion in the tent of Selim ; but when they came coolly to consider the matter, it did not appear that there was any great reason for alarm, even if the circumstance was true, which at present only rested upon the credit of the Afghlan prisoner. However, Rustan determined to reconnoitre the country, for which purpose he selected a few of his friends, who, well mounted and armed, set out with him upon the expedition.

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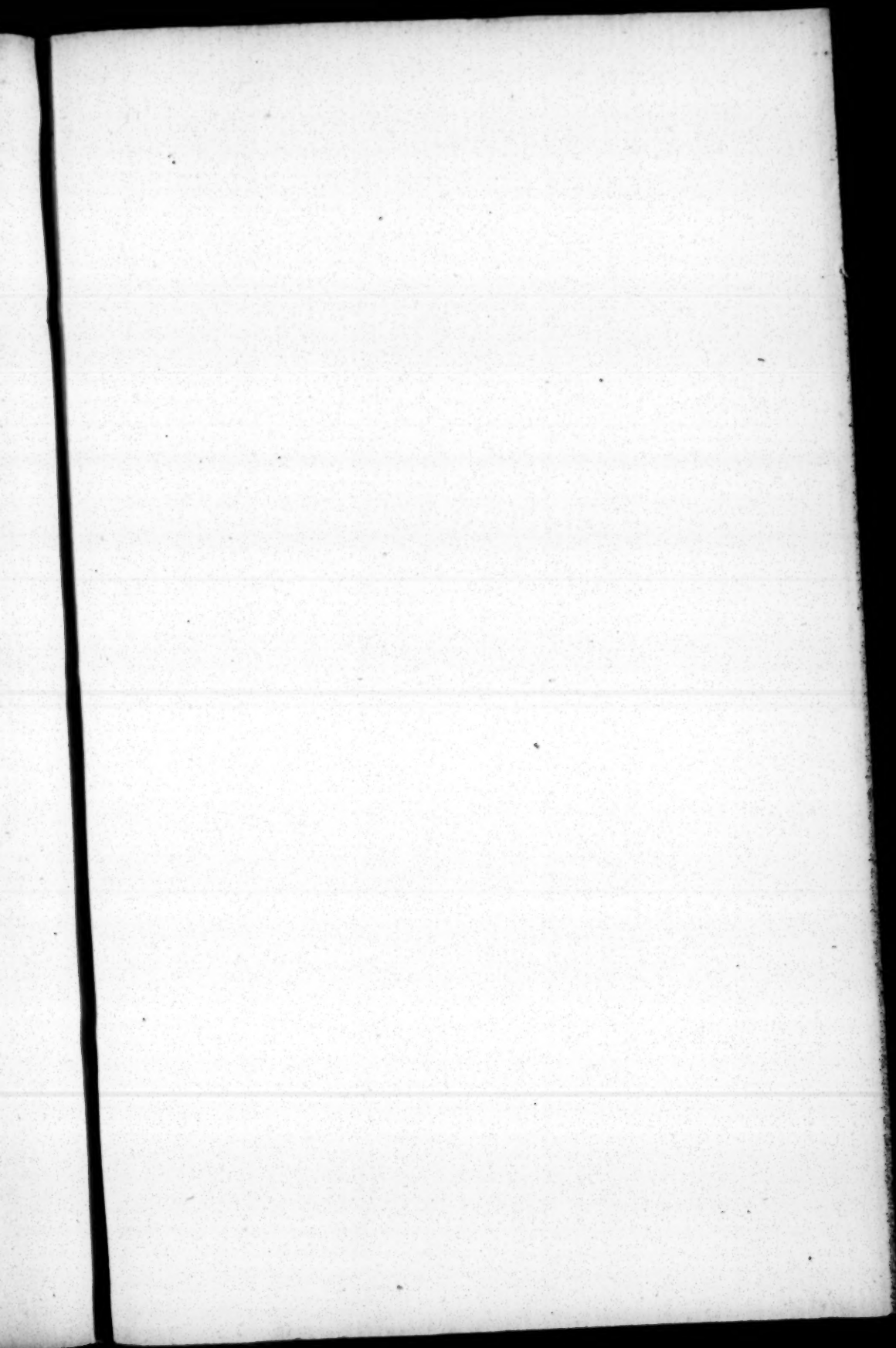
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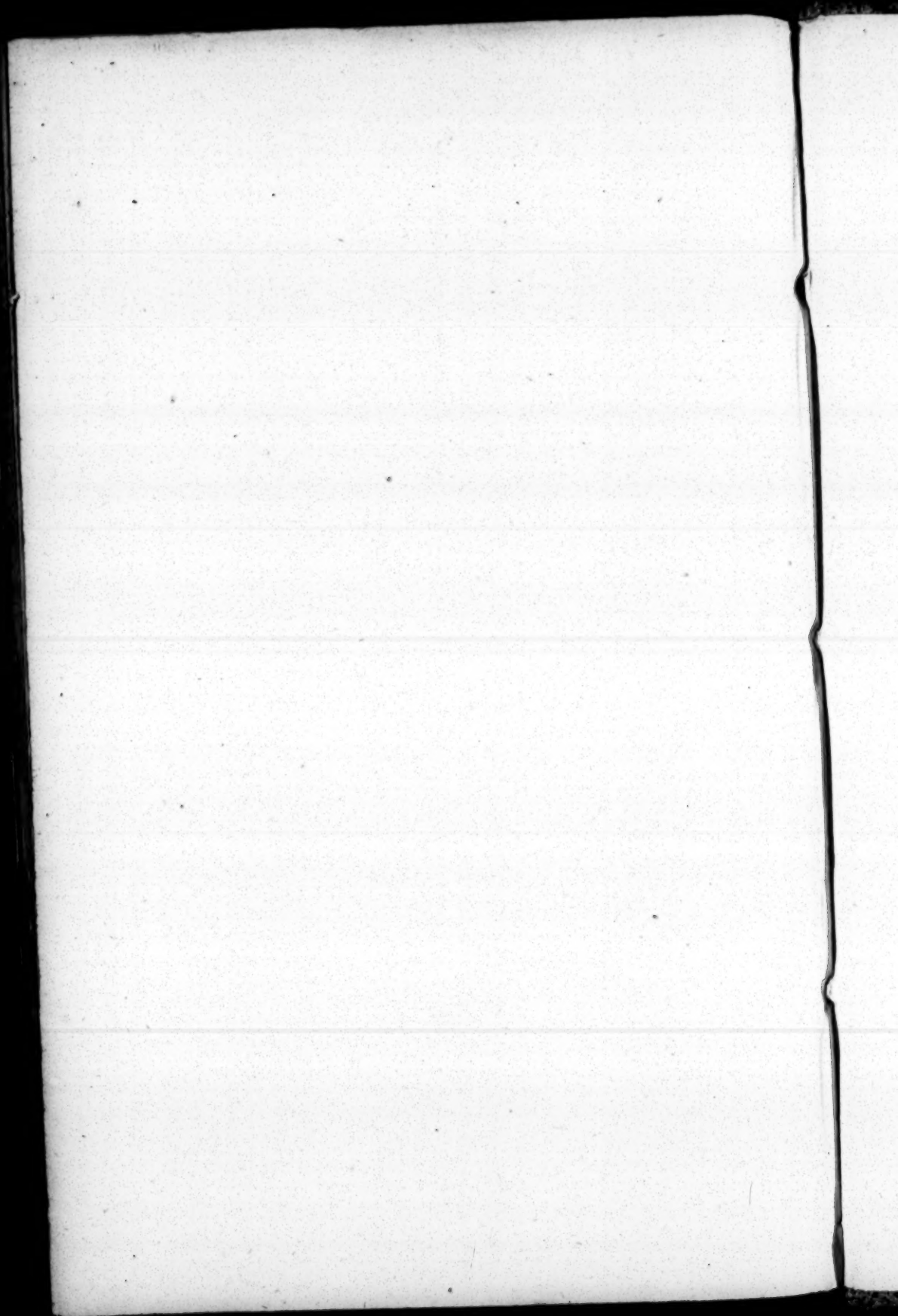
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